



Daily Report

East Europe

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**Havel, Walesa Say Aspin NATO Idea
'Acceptable'**

*LD2110183593 Prague CTK in English 1624 GMT
21 Oct 93*

[Text] Warsaw, Oct 21 (CTK)—Czech President Vaclav Havel said today that he and Polish President Lech Walesa considered the idea of NATO partnership for former communist countries as proposed by U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin on Wednesday, acceptable.

Speaking at a NATO defence ministers' informal meeting in Travemunde, Germany, Aspin proposed that NATO sign defence cooperation contracts with former East bloc countries which could lead to their membership in the alliance. But membership would not be promised to them on signing the contracts, he added.

Havel, on a three-day official visit to Poland since Wednesday, said that it had to be clearly said that this is the first step on the road towards later membership, that it is not a substitute for membership.

Havel and Walesa also discussed the Visegrad Group, which comprises the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland, and its new identity...we agree to synchronise our voices when this is in our interest, he added.

Havel also had informal talks with the winners of the recent parliamentary elections in Poland - premier designate Waldemar Pawlak, chairman of the Polish People's Party, and Aleksandr Kwasniewski, chairman of the Democratic Left Union.

He said that both politicians had assured him that the changes in Poland had to be seen as the result of the

citizens' democratic choice which will not generate radical changes in Poland's foreign policy and which would not stop reform processes.

In the morning, Havel laid a wreath at the tomb of an unknown warrior and at the monument to the Warsaw uprising.

Balkan Railroad Corporation Admits Macedonia

*AU2310154093 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1253
GMT 22 Oct 93*

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 22/10/1993—The group of the general directors of the National Railway Corporations of the Balkan Countries held its 5-th meeting at Suceava, Northern Romania, over October 20-22. Attending were Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), Turkey, Albania, the Republic of Macedonia, Croatia and the Republic of Moldova, the last two having the status of observers.

The participants reviewed the current stage of cooperation in the field of rail transport among Balkan countries, with a view to further improve it. Talks were held on computerization, the general modernization of rail traffic, with an increase in the quality of services offered by the corporations.

The Republic of Macedonia (from former Yugoslavia) was admitted to the group at the Suceava meeting, and the national corporations of the Republic of Moldova and Croatia were granted the status of associate members. The representative of Romania was elected chairman of the Balkan Group for the next two years.

Berisha, U.S. Official View Milosevic 'Regime'*AU2210215393 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1830 GMT 22 Oct 93*

[Text] This morning President Berisha received Mr. Stephen Oxman, U.S. undersecretary of state for Europe. The President briefed him on the latest developments in Albania and the achievements of the institutional and economic reform. He pointed out that the country is expected to have an 8 percent growth in the gross domestic product, which is one of the highest in Eastern Europe. President Berisha thanked Mr. Oxman for the political and economic support given by the United States to Albania. You were close to us from the very beginning of the democratic movement and have supported us constantly, he said.

Undersecretary Oxman said that he was bringing greetings from President Clinton, Vice President Gore, and Secretary of State Christopher. He said that he had been briefed about the changes in Albania and was impressed by the successes of the reform. A consequence of these successes will be that U.S. assistance for Albania will not be reduced in 1994, regardless of budgetary problems. The U.S. administration is also working intensively for the creation of a U.S.-Albanian fund intended to stimulate investment and economic cooperation.

President Berisha said that the recently-signed agreement between Defense Minister Zhulali and Les Aspin, the U.S. defense secretary, was a very important and encouraging document. Concerning the situation in the region, President Berisha said that Albania is against border changes through force and for a political solution of the Kosovo question. However, the Milosevic regime has no desire whatsoever to achieve a solution and compromise, even so much as on Albanian schools. We are grateful, he said, for the warning given to Milosevic by President Bush in December 1992, and also reiterated by President Clinton and top administration officials.

President Berisha endorsed the U.S. military presence in Macedonia as a factor of security and stability. Concerning the idea of a general solution to the crisis in former Yugoslavia, President Berisha said that Albania will continue to play a constructive role in the region. It is important to be careful, he said, because, should such efforts fail, the crisis would then become more severe and unforeseeable dangers would confront the entire [Balkan] peninsula. He declared himself in favor of maintaining sanctions against Serbia until these problems are resolved.

Undersecretary Oxman said the United States highly appreciates the stabilizing and constructive role of Albania in the Balkans. The warnings addressed to Serbia could be repeated in future, should the situation in Kosovo deteriorate. The United States and other allies are in favor of granting autonomy to Kosovo. He said that until the problems of Bosnia, Krajina, and Kosovo are settled, there is no likelihood of lifting the UN embargo against Serbia. He also informed President

Berisha about the new proposals for closer contacts between NATO and the East European countries. NATO accepts in principle the question of the membership of other countries.

President Berisha asked for U.S. support for a more rapid integration in NATO. He asked Mr. Oxman to convey his cordial greetings to President Clinton, Vice President Gore, and Secretary of State Christopher, expressing his wish that they will visit Albania.

Selami Condemns Belgrade Visit by PAD Delegation*AU2210211293 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1830 GMT 22 Oct 93*

[Text] Mr. Eduard Selami, chairman of the Albanian Democratic Party [PD], has issued a statement to the press in connection with the visit to Belgrade by a delegation of the Democratic Alliance Party [PAD]. Regardless of the justifications and the moderate tone, regardless of the alleged efforts to instigate a dialogue in order to solve the problems in the region, the statement says, anyone who is in the least informed about what is happening in former Yugoslavia and in Serbia understands very easily that to accept Milosevic's invitation and to sit down and negotiate with his supporters means helping him at a time when his policy and regime is going through a profound crisis. The PD, Mr. Selami says, distances itself vigorously from this irresponsible political act of the PAD, and considers this to be an anti-national and anti-democratic act favoring the Milosevic regime.

Zhulali, UK Official Sign Military Memorandum*AU2210213693 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1830 GMT 22 Oct 93*

[Text] One week after the signing of the military understanding memorandum with the United States, a similar bilateral document now exists between Albania and Great Britain. The document was signed this morning by Defense Minister Zhulali and Lord Cranborne, undersecretary of state at the British Ministry of Defense. Signing the document, which was termed as important in the current situation, Mr. Zhulali said that the memorandum meets the needs of the current developments in the Balkans. The document also fully conforms with Albania's defense policy, which aims to preserve peace, security, and stability in the region. Mr. Zhulali pledged that Albania would remain loyal to the agreement. He stated that our country is ready and will work to attain even more important agreements with Britain in the military field. The memorandum marks the beginning of a new friendship between our two countries and armies, he went on to say, adding that this is a result of the democratic achievements in our country and, primarily, of the process of reforming our armed forces in conformity with modern European standards, as required by NATO and the Western European Union. Albania's

particularly important geo-strategic position in the Balkans was also confirmed with the signing of the memorandum, Mr. Zhulali said.

According to Lord Cranborne, this fact is of great value for the future of bilateral military cooperation between the two countries. The British minister stated that Albania's strategic position is closely linked with the general strategy to achieve security in Europe. Precisely for this reason, the Albanian-British cooperation in the military field will, he said, be both intensive and extensive. According to the memorandum, these relations of cooperation will initially be centered on British assistance for the military-scientific training of Albanian officers.

Berisha, Cranborne Hold Talks

AU2210213793 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1830 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] President Berisha today received Lord Cranborne, undersecretary of state at the British Ministry of Defense. President Berisha expressed his pleasure with the agreement signed between the Defense Ministries of the two countries, as well as the increased level of cooperation between the two countries. Speaking about NATO's policy in the east, he said that it is essential that the alliance be expanded in conformity with the new conditions created following the end of the Cold War. Albania is very keen to becoming integrated in the Atlantic Alliance, he said. We would welcome British support in this, he went on to say.

Lord Cranborne expressed his particular pleasure in connection with this visit to Albania and the agreement that has been signed, and went on to speak about the specific forms of cooperation in defense matters. Speaking about the situation in the region, Lord Cranborne pointed out Albania's very positive role as a factor for peace and stability in the region.

Ministry Protests to Greece Over Border Incident

AU2310161893 Tirana ATA in English 0906 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Tirana, October 23 (ATA)—The secretary of the Greek Embassy in Tirana, Mr. Tulupas, was called at the Albanian Foreign Ministry on October 22, 1993, and was handed the following note of protest:

On October 19, 1993, at night, Greek border forces opened fire from a small distance against a group of Albanian unarmed citizens, who were about 200 meters in the Greek territory, in the vicinity of Kriovrisis village, Konica, near the border with Albania. Terrified by the fire opened against them, the group of Albanian nationals dispersed in the darkness. Five of them fell into a precipice, where three died and the two others were seriously wounded and sent to the Korca hospital. Among the victims was a young couple who were going to Greece to meet their family members. Later on, the Greek border forces detained eight other Albanian nationals.

The distorted and cynical interpretation of the facts by the Greek authorities, according to which the victims were caused as a result of clashes among the Albanians, is a dishonest effort to avoid any responsibility for the Greek side regarding this tragic and criminal act.

We regretfully notice that such criminal and irresponsible acts run counter to international norms and are a flagrant violation of human rights. They also do not help create a climate that would contribute to improvement and development of good-neighborliness and mutual cooperation that the governments of our two countries are trying to establish.

We ask the Greek Government to immediately put an end to such grave incidents.

Foreign Ministry Declaration on U.S. Initiative*AU2410150493 Sofia BTA in English 2150 GMT
23 Oct 93*

[Text] Sofia, October 23 (BTA)—At the meetings he had in Sofia, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Steven Oxman explained some important aspects of the essence and elements of the United States' initiative "Partnership for Peace," and the conclusion of bilateral cooperation agreements with NATO by the countries in central and Eastern Europe, it is said in a declaration issued by the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry.

The Foreign Ministry's preliminary position is that the new American initiative would activate practical cooperation among the members in the North Atlantic Cooperation Council in handling crises, peace-keeping and launching joint relief operations in the event of accidents. The proposed bilateral agreements will contain provisions for broadening cooperation in the military sphere, joint exercises with NATO, participation in military activity planning and so on, it is said in the Foreign Ministry's declaration received at BTA.

The Foreign Ministry sees the idea as an expression of the desire to take concrete actions which would respond to the strife of the central and East European countries for integration with the North Atlantic security structures. At the same time the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry declares that Bulgaria will continue to follow its sovereign line for full membership in NATO.

The implementation of the U.S. initiative should not put up walls and arouse feelings of isolation. It should give all countries in central and Eastern Europe equal opportunities to develop their relations with NATO, it should contribute to the strengthening of their security and to European stability, and it should open NATO for full membership in it, the Foreign Ministry's declaration reads.

One of its purposes could be to stimulate political cooperation among the partners and members of NATO. The Bulgarian side is ready to take active part in the further discussions on the initiative, including the one that will be held during the forthcoming meeting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council in Brussels in December this year, the declaration says in conclusion.

EC Observers: Serbian Border Situation 'Normal'*AU2210210293 Sofia BTA in English 1604 GMT
22 Oct 93*

[Text] Sofia, October 22 (BTA)—The situation along the border between Kulata and Vidin (dividing Bulgaria and Serbia) is normal, according to members of the EC mission who have been monitoring Bulgaria's western border for a whole year now. After the agreement signed with Bulgaria on September 25, 1992, the situation along the border has been normal, save for occasional attempts by Africans to cross the border illegally on their way to

the West. Ambassador Jacques de Bance, head of the mission, told a news conference today.

Mr. De Bance noted that the mission members - diplomats and senior officers who are unarmed and dressed in white - have no problems with Bulgarian border authorities. The reports that mission members took pictures of Serbian secret sites from Bulgarian territory, an incident that Bulgarian media covered extensively, was not something serious, according to Ambassador De Bance. The Serbian authorities are constantly filing similar complaints against EC missions in Albania and Hungary. On its part, Serbia has refused to accept EC monitors on its side of the border.

The task of the 350-strong mission, deployed in 6 stations in Bulgaria, Albania, Hungary, the Krajina, Bosnia-Herzegovina, is to monitor the military and political situation of the region, and not the observation of the Yugoembargo, Mr. De Bance said. The possibility of the Yugoconflict spilling over should not be ruled out, according to mission members. "There is tension in Kosovo, the parties have been refraining from military actions so far, but for how long, we don't know," the ambassador said. A complete solution of the Yugoconflict can be expected only after the problems of the Albanians in Kosovo are solved, according to Ambassador De Bance.

It is difficult to judge whether the threats of the Serbian nationalists against the Kozloduy nuclear power plant are real and Bulgaria should carefully consider to what extent they should be taken seriously, according to the EC mission's leader.

GOR First National Conference Opens in Sofia*AU2410143093 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in
Bulgarian 1700 GMT 23 Oct 93*

[Text] [Announcer] Over 500 delegates from all over the country, 30 percent of whom are still members of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP], attended the opening session of the Civil Alliance for the Republic [GOR] First National Conference, in Sofia today.

Aleksandar Tomov, present cochairman of GOR, described the political tasks of the organization in his report entitled: "New Choice For Bulgaria." The report stressed the need for GOR to become a genuine alternative for the current bipolar model prevailing in Bulgaria.

Let us listen to our reporter Silvia Velikova who is watching the first day of the conference:

[Begin Velikova recording] The question of whether GOR should develop as a party or as a movement—this was the main topic of the delegates's debates at today's session of the conference.

According to Mrs. Petya Shopova, the movement should register on the basis of the Law on Political parties and

establish its own parliamentary group in order to preserve its unique character and initial vigor. Kosta Karaiyanov, on the other hand, opposed the idea of establishing a parliamentary group of this kind.

According to Svetozar Tomov, the main dilemma is that GOR should become a political party so as not to die before it has been born, but he added that members, affiliated with other political formations, should also be accepted.

As far as the establishment of a new, fifth parliamentary group is concerned, Svetozar Tomov declared that more time is required to properly analyze the question.

The diametrically opposed views requested that GOR become an alliance that should, however, create its own lobby in parliament and in the cabinet.

The more moderate delegates suggested that a careful balance be established between the two possibilities.

It is clear that the crucial question will be resolved at tomorrow's session. [end Velikova recording].

Tomov Elected Leader

AU2410203493 Sofia BTA in English 1904 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Sofia, October 24 (BTA)—The Civil Alliance for the Republic (GOR) will register itself as an independent political movement under the Political Parties Act, it was decided at the First National Conference of the alliance which ended today. According to the Statute adopted by the delegates, members of other political formations can also join the GOR. Aleksandur Tomov, formerly member of the leadership of the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) and member of the National Assembly elected on the BSP ticket, was elected chairman of the new political organization. Slavyan Saparev, a member of the Grand National Assembly elected on the ticket of the Union of Democratic Forces, is the GOR deputy chairman.

The delegates failed to find a categorical answer to the question if the GOR should set up a separate parliamentary group as proposed by BSP MP Petya Shopova. Mr. Tomov told journalists that if the political space in parliament was restructured again, the GOR could form a parliamentary group of its own. At the moment there are 14 members of the GOR in the National Assembly.

The GOR appears on the political arena to assist in overcoming the confrontation that jeopardizes the country's future, to give the Bulgarian people a chance for a new political choice and to suggest a way out of the economic and intellectual crisis, it is said in the political resolution passed by the forum. The participants in the conference believe that the GOR should run in the next elections as a partner in some coalition or on its own depending on the development of political processes in the country.

The GOR First National (Constituent) Conference elected 79 members of its National Council, 21 of whom are members of the BSP.

Dogan Views DPS Relations With BSP, SDS

AU2210190693 Sofia PRAVA I SVOBODA in Bulgarian 15 Oct 93 p 8

[Third part of interview with Ahmed Dogan, chairman of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms, by Dushko Petrov for Radio Free Europe, place and date not given: "Responsibility for Country's Fate"]

[Text] [Petrov] Mr. Dogan, let us direct our conversation to the very delicate theme of morality in politics, especially as you say that you are more a philosopher than a politician. Only one year ago the Movement for Rights and Freedoms [DPS] demanded a ban on the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP], the heir of the Communist Party, which used to persecute the Bulgarian Turks and conducted a cohesive assimilation. Afterward, the DPS entered into political collusion with that same party and supported the current cabinet. How could you explain this fundamental change and why are there still difficulties in explaining the "divorce" with the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS]?

[Dogan] This is a question which involves advanced mathematics. I would like to say in a clear and categorical manner: We do not have a new marriage with the SDS, but nor do we have a marriage with the BSP. When a politician, a parliamentary faction, or a party acts from the viewpoint of the situation, in a manner aimed at asserting a specific tendency, without entering into a coalition with another parliamentary faction, as is the case with our relations with the BSP, this transcends simple political thinking. One can create a new strategy by determining in advance that a major parliamentary faction, such as the BSP, willingly or unwillingly will have to vote in a certain manner, without entering into a coalition with them. This is the fine art of the politician, rather than entering into various coalitions. I have not created, nor do I intend to create, a coalition, because when one has already been burned by a political divorce, one is very wary of a second wedding.

[Petrov] It would be interesting to hear your opinion about the correctness in relations between the politicians and the voters, and between the governing and opposition forces. Most important, I would like to hear your opinion about the loyalty toward political partners. For example, some people accuse you of not being completely loyal to the SDS.

[Dogan] In terms of our system of values as a party, my own system of values, and my conscience if you will, I have always been convinced that I act to preserve the principle of the country's territorial integrity and the peaceful process of the transition toward democracy. In addition, I am working on the principle that we should not allow one of the mastodon parties to dominate political life. This is very dangerous. Naturally, during

the periods of 1991-1992 and 1992-1993 there were processes of clear SDS domination. One could understand at the very beginning that political goals, uncoordinated with the public interest, could be very harmful. For them it was absolutely clear that the administrative dictatorship could be one of the basic driving forces of the transition process. From this point of view it is very important to understand that friendship in politics is always subjugated to specific interests.

[Petrov] In a recent statement for BTA you said that your new partner in parliament—the BSP—flexes its muscles, and one could get tired of being the balancing force. How do you see your balancing role in the future, not merely in the arithmetical sense of the word, but in a comprehensive political sense?

[Dogan] I am convinced that our balancing role in this particular case gave the BSP and the Parliamentary Alliance for Social Democracy the opportunity to show their new face, about which they speak so much, and to demonstrate whether there really are preconditions of constructing a new image in the eyes of the public and Europe. Unfortunately, at this stage I have certain reservations in drawing categorical conclusions. However, they have had the opportunity to present something new. Naturally, when the claims of a certain party exceed its ability in anything related to its role and place in political life, as is the case of the BSP and the Parliamentary Alliance for Social Democracy, one gets tired of being the balancing force. This is especially so against the background of the fact that things could again develop in such a manner that radical ideas and principles about the transition period could reemerge. I consider it very important that the BSP knows its place in political life and does not try to exceed its possibilities.

[Petrov] We all know that the Berov's cabinet was formed with the DPS mandate. However, as you hinted, apparently this cabinet does not satisfy the requirements of your movement any longer. What is your forecast for this cabinet's future? Is there a real danger that the DPS could strip the cabinet of its confidence?

[Dogan] There is no such danger in the topical sense of the word. However, potentially there is such a danger if the cabinet deviates from the course that it assumed with its declaration, which it published at the very beginning. Naturally, there could be "transitions" in our relations with the cabinet. No one has an eternal love insurance policy. In politics a cabinet could always have a long life if it is supported by a dynamic parliamentary majority that is not necessarily organized in a coalition, and if the interests and goals of the various parliamentary groups and deputies are clearly expressed.

[Petrov] The BSP has been criticized for openly dictating to various administration structures, and for excessive interference with the executive power. You yourself spoke about the BSP flexing its muscles. What is your opinion on this issue?

[Dogan] No parliamentary faction is homogeneous, and this is good. Homogeneity usually produces authoritarianism on the part of a certain faction and eliminates the principles of internal dynamics and opposition if you will within the parliamentary faction itself. If there really are clear signs of authoritarianism on the part of the BSP toward the government and parliament, we shall by all means find a way to oppose this. Thus, I have no illusions. I do not tend to dream, and I face reality. If the BSP claimed executive power, utilizing the opportunity to show its new image, it could really turn things against itself.

[Petrov] Is there a real chance of holding early parliamentary elections? What is your forecast and your expectations for the achievements of the DPS, the BSP, and the SDS?

[Dogan] Indeed, there is a chance of holding early parliamentary elections. More specifically, early elections could be expected sometime in the spring. However, if until then our friends from the SDS do not clarify things in their own backyard, and face the present reality, the elections could be postponed until autumn 1994. However, if they really are postponed until autumn, there will hardly be any deputies or parliamentary factions that would like to hold the parliamentary elections just one year before the end of their term. In fact, no parliamentary faction is now prepared for parliamentary elections. Even if we assume that the BSP wins the elections, I categorically repeat that at this stage it would be absurd for the BSP to form cabinet alone. It would be their great moment if they were to form a coalition government, but I see no real signs even of such a development.

[Petrov] What political initiatives will the DPS propose this autumn?

[Dogan] We attribute a great importance to the priority draft bills. This first includes the tax bills, which must be adopted as a package. Second, there are the draft social bills. They are ready and must be placed on the agenda of the National Assembly. Third, there are the draft bills related to the country's security—the draft bills on the Army and the police. Finally, there are draft bills that regularize leasing relations, as well as bills that least of all note the new realities. Facing reality, the legislator also faces a basic problem—should he transcend reality with his legislative activity, or should he rather consolidate what has already emerged as a tendency, so that he can control it. Very often I see draft bills that try to create a certain reality instead of noting and channeling certain actual tendencies.

[Petrov] Last month the DPS demonstrated a certain aspiration to become the political center, regardless of how relative this concept is in Bulgaria. The participation in the so-called Cooperation Council, together with many extraparlimentary parties and movements, indicated steps in the direction of creating a prelection

situation. Could you lift the curtain a little and let us see your tactics and strategy in the center of the Bulgarian political map?

[Dogan] Perhaps you know that, when I spoke at the opening session of the 36th National Assembly, I said that at this moment Bulgaria needs a bipolar parliamentary model, that is, two basic forces. We were very happy to join the SDS parliamentary faction in resolving problems together, until the contradictions emerged that determined our divorce. However, later I began to question the efficiency of this bipolar model, because issues related to the country's fate and the legislative activity were resolved very rapidly in an almost revolutionary manner. From this point of view, it is an objective need that a stable center, related to extraparliamentary forces, exists in parliament. The Cooperation Council filled this gap in our political life. In this context the SDS and the BSP had already planned a parliamentary center based on 12-13 extraparliamentary parties, which cover well the political spectrum. In any event, the Bulgarian political spectrum needs centrist forces. The problem of their program and their ideology as centrist organizations is a little more complex. Should they be neoliberal or neoconservative parties following the European model? This is a matter of their fermentation. However, in any event Bulgarian political life needs a really stable center, which could become an attracting force for all those roving

parties, which wander between the left and the right. At a certain stage they could join the center and form a dynamic majority, which could calm the country.

[Petrov] Will there be the Turkish credit of \$250 million that reports mentioned after your last visit to Turkey?

[Dogan] Yes, there will be credit and investment. Actually, the basic issue was rather the investment of their businessmen and banks, which are interested in forming joint companies in Bulgaria both in tourism and production. This is very important, and I think that from this point of view the West owes us very much. The watch-and-wait policy of the developed Western countries could already be questioned. After all, the other alternative is very dangerous. I fear very much a new arms race. If the Western states continue to view us as babies in the political sense of the word, Russia could emerge as a very powerful force in the region, and we—willingly or unwillingly—would have to become allied with it. After all, the issue in question is not only our own security, but the fate and security of many others. Thus, if the Western countries cut their arms by just a few percent and gave it free to our states, without turning us into satellites, perhaps the reality could be different. Every policy of the West that does not take into consideration the new tendencies of the former socialist countries could damage the West's own interests.

Klaus Returns From Foreign Tour, Comments*LD2410163993 Prague CTK in English 1540 GMT
24 Oct 93*

[Text] Prague Oct 24 (CTK)—The Czech Republic has prestige abroad and is considered a model of successful transformation from a centrally-planned to a market economy, Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus told journalists here today.

Arriving back from his first American tour in his capacity of Czech premier, which started October 14, Klaus said the visit contributed to a broader presentation of the Czech Republic abroad, as well as allowing a look at domestic affairs from a 10,000-km distance and with a ten-day lapse of time. Viewed this way some headlines in our media can be classified in the proper way, Klaus said.

He said he considered the problem of protectionism a normal and traditional one. It is condemned by prominent politicians, but lower-ranking political representatives in the West, who shoulder responsibility for concluding agreements, are more exposed to the pressures of various lobbies, Klaus said.

A positive role in this respect, he stated, is played by international financial institutions which consider the fight against protectionism their top priority, as do we.

Klaus had on many occasions critical things to say about protectionism. He discussed it with U.S. Vice-President Albert Gore describing it as a major economic problem for Western European countries and as another form of nationalism, no less condemnable.

Referring to his stay in Mexico, Klaus said that economic reforms there and in the Czech Republic are similar to a considerable extent. Both countries are interested in the creation of a common free-trade zone.

The economic reform now in progress in Mexico, is, in Klaus's opinion, dynamic and is freeing the country from its curse. Mexico is one of the few countries which has a balanced budget, like the Czech Republic, Klaus stated.

In Mexico, the premier was accompanied by a group of prominent Czech economists, businessmen and representatives of trade organisations who agreed that the Czech Republic would deliver 40 trolleybuses to the country. Klaus said that the two parties agreed that Mexico would send pharmaceutical industry experts to the Czech Republic.

Klaus arrived for a visit to Mexico on October 17 from the United States. He held talks with Mexican President Carlos Salinas, ministers, politicians, bankers, and addressed a congress of the International Chamber of Commerce in Cancun.

Besides the United States and Mexico, Klaus paid a visit to Guatemala and, on the way back, to Germany where he addressed the international Bertelsmann forum, held at the weekend.

President Havel Views Sudeten German Issue*AU2310153293 Prague CTK in English 1121 GMT
20 Oct 93*

[Text] Prague, Oct 20 (CTK)—According to Czech President Vaclav Havel, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl is aware of the significance of a certain goodwill gesture by which Germany would compensate Czech victims of the Nazi regime.

After returning from his October 15 visit to Germany, Havel said last Saturday [16 October] that solving the much-discussed question of opening a dialogue between the Czech side and representatives of the Sudeten Germans is not Germany's condition for speeding up compensation of the Czechs.

The Czech Republic and Slovakia are, apart from the Baltic States, the last countries which have not received any compensation for the victims of Nazism from Germany. There are 11,000 of these victims in the Czech Republic. According to some German opinions, it is above all the unresolved issue of the transfer of Sudeten Germans after World War II which apparently prevents this problem from being settled.

The Prague-based military-historical institute in 1985 estimated the damage caused to Czechoslovakia's economy by the Nazi regime at 700 billion korunas (\$21 billion). German newspapers of October 1991, citing the German Foreign Ministry, wrote that Czechoslovakia would receive nearly 100 million German marks [DM]. This sum was also mentioned by the Czech Foreign Ministry in April 1993.

It is true that Czechoslovakia received in 1970 global compensation worth DM 7.5 million from Germany under an agreement of 30 October, 1969, but this was only meant for compensation of the victims of the pseudo-medical experiments made in the Nazi concentration camps. According to the German daily DIE WELT of June 1991, only 0.07 percent of Czechoslovakia's claims for reparations had thus been met. Some members of the Sudeten German Landsmannschaft voiced the demand for DM 160 billion in compensation for property Germans left behind after being moved out of the Czech lands.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said on 5 February that Germany admits that there must be some form of compensation and that Czech-German relations should not be burdened by the Sudeten German question. His Czech colleague Josef Zieleniec said he favors compensation by way of setting up a foundation, which was discussed in connection with the 1992 Czechoslovak-German treaty. Premier Vaclav Klaus said the Czech Government is not a partner for the Sudeten

German Landsmannschaft and hinted that the Czech side is prepared for a dialogue. He stressed that possible claims by the Sudeten Germans are unacceptable for the Czech Government.

On 9 February the Sudeten German Landsmannschaft rejected any compensation for the Czech victims of Nazism. Two days later Zieleniec said that a dialogue with Sudeten German organizations cannot be conducted by the Czech Government but by representatives of Czech regions or by some associations.

It is necessary to conduct a dialogue with the Germans, but property cannot be returned. President Havel said during his visit to Austria on 15 March.

The spokesman for the Sudeten Germans, Franz Neubauer, said on 20 March that it is impossible for the Czech side to be against the return of the Sudeten Germans and at the same time to expect new investments from Germany.

Two days later Premier Vaclav Klaus rejected Sudeten German calls for talks with the Czech Government on their former property, and said that restitution cannot concern property confiscated by the state before 25 February 1948. The Sudeten German Landsmannschaft criticized his attitude on March 23.

On April 26 while visiting Germany, Havel called for a goodwill gesture in favor of compensation for Czechs. A day later, Neubauer said possible compensation of the Czechs would be a provocation if no compensation is given to the expelled Sudeten Germans.

On 28 April the German Government's Press and Information office denied that Chancellor Kohl promised President Havel 120 million marks for building old people's homes in the Czech Republic.

Another call on the Czech Republic's political leadership to start a dialogue with the Sudeten Germans came from Bavarian Premier Edmund Stoiber at a Sudeten German gathering on 30 May. The next day the Czech Government coalition agreed to set up a working group which would conduct a dialogue with the Sudeten Germans.

In a letter to Stoiber, made public on 30 June, Klaus wrote that the statements by representatives of the Bonn and Bavarian governments at the Sudeten German gathering would undoubtedly have an adverse impact on the planned talks. He wrote that linking the construction of an oil pipeline leading from Germany to the Czech Republic to a change in the approach of the Czech Government to talks with the Sudeten Germans, as well as the demand for annulling the Benes Decrees of 1945, cannot be accepted.

At a meeting with Stoiber on August 15, Klaus reiterated that a dialogue with the Sudeten Germans cannot be conducted by the Government, but by organizations and political parties.

Landsmannschaft representatives said on August 23 that Kohl supports the claims of the Sudeten Germans on the Czech Republic. The German Government's press office issued a communique saying that the position of German Government officials on this issue is in harmony with the 1992 Czechoslovak-German treaty.

Kohl said on 3 September that a dialogue with the Sudeten Germans is one of the conditions for the Czech Republic's integration into Europe. Foreign Minister Kinkel said the next day that the Federal Government never acknowledged the injustice of the expulsion and expropriation of German property without compensation after the War.

Klaus said on 8 September that the Czech Republic's positions on the Sudeten German issue are clear and definitive, both as regards property restitution claims and the inviolability of territory.

While the Czech side put the reparation claims at 306 billion korunas (\$10 billion), only 657 million (\$20 million) had been paid from it by 1948, Minister Zieleniec said on 15 September.

Stoiber told the Czech daily MLADA FRONTA DNES on 4 October that the Bavarian Government supports the construction of the oil pipeline and it would therefore be a great help if the Czech side supported the Bavarian Government with greater cooperativeness in other spheres, for instance in the question of a dialogue with the Sudeten Germans. A day later Klaus again rejected any linking of the oil pipeline construction to the opening of a dialogue with the Sudeten Germans.

Zieleniec: State Should Compensate Nazi Victims

*AU2310160093 Prague CTK in English 2143 GMT
20 Oct 93*

[Text] Prague, Oct 20 (CTK)—The Czech Republic should consider the possibility of compensating for the time being its citizens who were afflicted by the Nazi regime during World War Two, Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec told Czech television today.

He was speaking about what concrete steps the Czech Republic proposed to take to solve the issue. The Czechs are the only Germany's neighbors, with whom Germany has not yet settled the problem.

Of course, after compensating the Czech victims ourselves we would continue to negotiate with Germany and try to get back the relevant amount, Zieleniec said. I believe that this is the way which could solve the controversy between the urgency of the problem from the Czech point of view, and its complicated character regarding Germany's internal political developments, he added.

Czech President Vaclav Havel told journalists on Saturday [16 October], that during a private visit to Speyer, Germany, on October 16, he had told German Chancellor Helmut Kohl that the Czech Republic was under a

certain amount of time pressure, as the people involved were elderly, and therefore it was necessary to act promptly. He said that Kohl had explained him certain political entailments of such a compensation.

Another sensitive question yet to be settled in the Czech-German relations is that of Sudeten Germans, who demand abolition of the decrees issued by Czechoslovak President Edward Benes in 1945. Under the decrees, Sudeten Germans were expelled from the country and their property was expropriated.

Kocarnik Comments on Talks on Czech-Slovak Debt

*LD2410212293 Prague CTK in English 2047 GMT
24 Oct 93*

[Text] Prague Oct 24 (CTK)—Czech Finance Minister Ivan Kocarnik today said that in the first half of November the Czech and Slovak Republics are likely to sign agreements on the division of the 1992 federal budget deficit and mutual relief from paying a road tax.

After a working meeting with his Slovak counterpart Julius Toth in Brno, South Moravia, Kocarnik said that they discussed the coordination of approaches in following up the form of Czechoslovakia's claims towards its foreign creditors.

He stated that a commission of the Czech and Slovak National Banks had made a little progress on the issue of the amount of the Czech Republic's claims, based on the division of the former Czechoslovak State Bank claims. The Slovak side had thus far acknowledged a debt of 6.6 billion crowns (approx. 200 million USD) out of a total of 24.7 billion crowns (approx. 800 million USD).

The minister said both parties were considering the creation of a new working commission which would proceed in resolving the problem more quickly than the present one. The two sides also had certain hopes in the new Slovak National Bank governor.

Kocarnik confirmed that four tonnes of Slovak gold and a one-third Slovak share of the former Czechoslovak material reserves would remain in the Czech Republic until the Slovak side acknowledges the debt.

Lux: Property Talks With Slovakia Must Be Completed

*AE2310160293 Prague CTK in English 2059 GMT
20 Oct 93*

[Text] Prague, Oct 20 (CTK)—Czech-Slovak talks on property settlement must result in a final agreement in spite of the two countries' different level of willingness, Czech Deputy Premier and Agriculture Minister Josef Lux said after today's Czech cabinet meeting.

Recently, Czech Privatization Minister Jiri Skalicky said that the Slovaks had lost interest in further discussion on property settlement after Czech enterprises' shares from

the first round of coupon privatization, which ended last December, had been handed to Slovak investors.

In the spring, when the property settlement talks got stuck due to the Slovak side, the Czech Government decided to postpone the distribution of the shares to Slovaks. Later it revoked its decision.

On Tuesday [19 October], Czech Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Ivan Kocarnik said that about four tonnes of gold and a 33-percent share in former federal material reserves and the Federal National Fund would be held by the Czechs until agreement on the remaining claims and debts is reached with Slovakia.

He said that recognition of the Czech claim to 24 billion korunas (about \$800 million), which arises from the division of the former Czechoslovak State Bank, was of key importance.

Ruml Report Underlines Illegal Migration

*LD2010154693 Prague Radio-zurnal Radio Network in
Czech 1100 GMT 20 Oct 93*

[Text] Last week Interior Minister Jan Ruml submitted a document to parliament entitled "Report on the Development of Migration in the Czech Republic."

By 30 June 1993, following the division of Czechoslovakia, almost 160,000 Slovak citizens, mainly those living in northern Moravia and northern and western Bohemia, applied for Czech citizenship. Thanks to the current legislation on citizenship, migration from Slovakia to the Czech Republic can now be monitored and controlled.

Growing unemployment and poor environmental conditions, too, have been reflected in migration within the Czech Republic, while, following the 1990 changes to the visa policy, movements through border crossings have also increased. The heaviest traffic is on the border with Germany. In the first six months of 1993 approximately 51 million people, that is about seven-times more than in 1989, crossed this border.

Increasing numbers of foreigners are interested in permanent or long-term residence in the Czech Republic. Should this trend continue by the end of 1993 the number of foreigners resident in the Czech Republic will reach one-two per cent of the Czech Republic population.

The so-called Volhynian Czechs constitute a special category among the foreigners. In 1990 the Czech Government allowed them to return from the area affected by the Chernobyl nuclear power station accident, and about 1,500 people have since returned.

This year there has been a slight increase in the number of applications for refugee status, and in the first six months of this year 128 people were granted this status and settled in the Czech Republic.

Illegal migration has been the greatest burden. The number of people who attempted to cross the Czech border illegally in the first six months of 1993 was twice as high as during the same period of 1992. Following the adoption of the new asylum law in Germany, the number of people sent back to the Czech Republic has dropped, while at the same time the number of people flown back to Romania and Bulgaria from Germany has grown.

In the absence of data on the situation on the Czech-Slovak border, however, the picture is incomplete.

The greatest number of illegal border crossings are made by the citizens of the former Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Romania. Ninety-nine percent of them, however, enter the Czech Republic legally and out of this number 87 percent enter from Slovakia.

Poll Indicates Support for ODS Increasing

AU2510121193 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 20 Oct 93 p 2

[Report by CTK and "(z)]: "The Voters Have Not Altered Their Views, the Civic Democratic Party Is Still the Most Popular"]

[Text] Prague—The most citizens, roughly a third, would vote for the Civic Democratic Party [ODS] if parliamentary elections were held now. This confirms that the voters have not altered their views recently.

According to the Center For Empirical Research, which in October asked 1,575 people for their views on the political parties, the summer decline in support for the winner of the last elections—Klaus's ODS—was merely temporary.

The other parties are managing—on the whole—to sustain a stable level of support among potential voters. The Czech Social Democratic Party came second with 14 percent; the Civic Democratic Alliance came third with 12 percent; and the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (or, as the case may be, the Left Bloc) came next with 10 percent. The Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party with 5.0 percent and the Liberal Social Union with 4.0 percent lag considerably behind.

However, almost 25 percent of voters are not sure if they would now take part in elections. According to the results of the poll, 65 percent of citizens would definitely vote; at the moment, 12 percent would definitely not vote.

One third of the respondents considered the work done by parliament in September to be good. In the opinion of 62 percent of the respondents, the government performed well. This is the best assessment of the government's performance in the past six months (for example, in August only 50 percent assessed its performance positively).

Journalists Protest Police Order on Identification

AU2210205793 Prague CTK in English 1835 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Prague, Oct 20 (CTK)—The Czech Journalists' Union has informed editorial offices of a new police presidium order which states that when covering mass demonstrations and spontaneous gatherings journalists must mandatorily wear clear and uniform identification signs.

The union claims the order was issued on the basis of discussions the union had with the Police Presidium and came into force on 13 October.

The police presidium, however, denied that the order was mandatory for journalists. The order defines the police role with regard to journalists but it was mandatory for police. Ales Svoboda, police presidium spokesman said. Nowhere was it stated or implied that journalists were required to identify themselves.

Svoboda explained that identification was in the journalist's own interest. It would prevent their being confused with demonstrators. The police would not be permitted to take any action against the journalists (unless they broke the law) nor impede them while they worked, he said.

The order requires identification by means of the words "tisk" or press (minimum 15 centimeter high) in an easily visible color, worn both on the journalist's front and back. The journalist should also be able to present editorial authorization for his presence at a demonstration.

HZDS, SNS Officials Brief Press on Coalition

AU2210112593 Prague CTK in English 1723 GMT
20 Oct 93

[Text] Bratislava Oct 20 (CTK)—The coalition agreement concluded on Tuesday [19 October] between the ruling Movement For a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) and the Slovak National Party (SNS) provides for the SNS's worthy position in the government, Roman Kovac, the chairman of the HZDS Council, told a press conference today.

Kovac, who is also Slovak deputy premier, said that the coalition agreement would take effect only after it is ratified by the two parties' supreme bodies. By then, the completion and possible reconstruction of the government will be discussed, Kovac said.

Concrete names and changes in the ministerial seats will be announced only on Monday [25 October], he said. Further changes in the government, linked to the individual ministries' efficiency, are under discussion, he stated.

Kovac said he saw it was premature to consider whether a referendum should be held to let the citizens decide on Slovakia's interest in joining NATO, or if the issue should be decided by the parliament. However, Slovakia intends to participate actively in the European security structures, he stressed.

SNS Deputy Chairman Peter Sokol noted that a post of a deputy premier in charge of the country's joining the European structures was being considered. He rejected the allegation that the two parties' coalition talks took place without knowledge of SNS Chairman Ludovit Cernak. The Democratic Left Party (SDL) was enormously interested in the coalition talks' failure, Sokol noted.

He refused to comment on SDL Chairman Peter Weiss's statement on Slovak Radio that he (Weiss) had been asked by HZDS and SNS top representatives to stage-manage a government crisis. On behalf of the HZDS, the Weiss statement was denied by the movement Deputy Chairman Roman Zelenay.

The new HZDS-SNS coalition agreed by the two parties' chairmen on Tuesday, would have 80 votes in the 150-seat parliament, which is an absolute majority, but not the qualified two-thirds majority necessary for the passage of constitutional laws.

The HZDS has not discussed the Monday's [18 October] court ruling which confirmed that under the Nazi-sponsored Slovak state (1939-1945), the present Slovak Culture Minister Dusan Slobodnik had been a member of a fascist youth organisation and had attended a terrorist course. Asked if it was not appropriate for a minister with such a past to quit, Zelenay replied that Slobodnik had appealed against the sentence and therefore the case was viewed by the HZDS as the open one.

Finance Minister Toth Discusses Capital Market

AU2210182793 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 20 Oct
93 FINANCNE SPRAVODAJSTVO supplement p 1

[Interview with Finance Minister Julius Toth, by Alena Bucekova; place and date not given: "The Division of Work Is a Big Question Mark"]

[Text] There have been long discussions about the Slovak capital market ever since the first signs of its incipient life. What is permitted by law and what is not, what is and how is it happening, and who has—or should have—what kind of powers. Everything new has its "childhood" diseases. The best therapies are being sought. Almost every participant in the capital market holds a different opinion on the best direction to take. We asked Slovak Finance Minister Julius Toth for his opinion on the most discussed topics.

[Bucekova] Could you briefly explain to our readers the Finance Ministry concept of the capital market in Slovakia and tell us where you see its priorities?

[Toth] The capital market in Slovakia was created and is guided by a concept based on laws. Its foundations were laid in the federal arrangement of the republic together with the Czech Republic. The activities of our capital markets are identical, we each have a securities exchange and the RM-System [registracni misto—registration center], and we have an options exchange, which the Czech Republic does not have. This last is the only capital market product that originated in Slovakia. The three entities, which act as consumers on the capital market, are able to maintain the emerging capital market in the Slovak Republic. The only question is how to divide the work. Views on this issue vary. About three weeks ago, I called a meeting of the capital market commission to agree on some criteria. All participants, including investment companies, will submit their proposals on where and what rules should be included in legislative measures or ministry directives. We will collect all the suggestions, assess them, and prepare an overall report. While in Washington, I asked the IMF for their experts to prepare statutes of the capital market using the suggestions expressed in these submissions. On this basis, we will decide what needs to be done for the capital market.

[Bucekova] So, there are three mutually competing entities which deal with identical securities. The originally planned profile of the stock market was different....

[Toth] If there is not to be competition on the capital market between entities dealing on that market then some measures must be taken. The securities exchange was organized by the banks for dealing with listed securities. Only companies of internationally recognized quality should be listed on the Bratislava Securities Exchange. If we let into the Bratislava Securities Exchange companies that are not internationally recognized, without audits, or not satisfying other conditions, it could happen that the value of these shares and the

quality of the Bratislava Securities Exchange will not be as high as it should be. The RM-System is a child of coupon privatization that was and will be. It cannot be expected that after the shares are dispensed to companies, investment companies, or citizens, the operation of the securities market will stop. We need the RM-System to deal with the shares that are on the market. It is a certain form of property transfer, and the shares have the same value as those traded on the Bratislava Securities Exchange. I can see a certain division of work between these two institutions. The shares of a company that passes an international audit should be automatically transferred to the Bratislava Securities Exchange. The latter should be the most trusted market also in relations with foreign investors. As for the Bratislava Options Exchange: In a way, I, too, am responsible for the creation of this system. The idea dates back to the time before I came to the ministry, and I saw this as a contribution to the recovery of the capital market. I have a feeling, however, that under the present circumstances, it is a rather premature product. If you look how, and in which countries, options exchanges operate, you will see that we could have waited for at least a year, and, although the Bratislava Options Exchange has a well trained management and a well organized information system, they should only trade in options. A single-day deal is not an option. There is nothing like that on the world options markets. After the Washington talks and consultations with many foreign experts on capital markets, we have reached the conclusion that the JTO [expansion unknown] license defined for the options exchange will not remain in its current form but rather a minimum number of days for the option contract will be set.

[Bucekova] What time span do you have in mind for implementing these changes?

[Toth] We will wait for the IMF mission, and after we have consulted them, the entire issue will be settled very quickly. It should not happen later than by the second half of February. We will not procrastinate any longer.

[Bucekova] A merger between the RM-System and the Securities Center has been considered. What is the actual solution?

[Toth] This idea was valid assuming that the coupon privatization would be terminated. The Securities Center itself has no justifiable basis. Nevertheless, the government decided on the second wave [of coupon privatization] and only the Securities Center can perform certain valuations.

Central Bank Reports on Monetary Development

AU2210183093 Bratislava PRÁVA in Slovak 16 Oct 93 pp 1, 2

[Report by Ivan Podstupka: "Tight Links Between the Economy and the Currency"]

[Text] Bratislava—Next week, National Bank Governor Vladimir Masar will present an important document at a meeting of the National Council of the Slovak Republic. This document is a report on the monetary development in the first six months of 1993.

Since we have had the opportunity to acquire this document several days before it is actually debated in parliament, we can publish several important facts from this report. According to the report, monetary development, which cannot be separated from other developments in the economy, has been influenced by the establishment of the independent republic, the introduction of separate currencies, and changes to the tax system.

The development in the first six months was adversely affected by a 6-percent decline in gross domestic product and 11-percent unemployment. The trade surplus, the low level of debt, and moderate inflation had a positive effect. After eliminating the influence of the tax changes, inflation is comparable to that in countries with advanced market economies.

The Currency Development

The money in circulation and deposits declined by 6.9 billion Slovak korunas [Sk], and foreign currency deposits increased by Sk13.5 billion. This was caused mainly by the separation of the currency, and the way in which Czechoslovak money in circulation was divided [between the Czech Republic and Slovakia]. The National Bank of Slovakia expects the volume of the money in circulation to have increased by the end of this year, and reach between Sk30 and 31 billion. The banks sold foreign currency worth Sk5.1 billion to tourists travelling abroad, which is 32 percent more than last year. The difference between the value of the foreign currency sold and that bought was Sk1.6 billion, with more foreign currency sold than bought.

The amount of koruna-denominated credits granted by the commercial banks to the entrepreneurial sector reached Sk246.4 billion, which is 4.4 percent more than at the beginning of the year. The volume of credits provided to the private sector increased by 17 percent, while the volume of credits to the state sector declined by 8.5 percent. The amount of irrecoverable claims and bad debts increased by Sk2.8 billion, and their share of overall credits increased to 10.6 percent, compared with 1.5 percent last year.

Credit granted to individuals declined by Sk1 billion because social loans provided to young couples who wanted to buy apartments were abolished.

The Decline in the Amount of Koruna-Denominated Deposits

The koruna-denominated primary [privatni] deposits made by entities other than banks had reached Sk187.7 billion by the end of the first half of the year, which is Sk0.9 billion less than at the beginning of the year, and

Sk6.3 billion less than in the same period last year. On the other hand, the volume of deposits in foreign currency increased by 47 percent, reaching Sk19.7 billion, since people were anticipating a devaluation of the Slovak currency.

In the first six months, the interest rate increased by 1.3 percent, from 13.38 to 14.71 percent. Short-term interest rates increased more considerably. Slovak banks with foreign participation and foreign bank branches charged the highest interest. This was due to the fact that, apart from the lack of resources [as published], these banks had higher expenses. The average interest rate on deposits increased by 1.3 percent, from 6.58 percent to 7.88 percent. The interest charged on interbank [mezi-bankovy] deposits reached as high as 15.72 percent.

The National Bank of Slovakia report sees the policy regarding the interest rate as inflexible. To a large extent, this situation was caused by the dominant position of the Slovak State Savings Bank in the sphere of deposits, and the general credit banks in the sphere of credit.

The Balance of Payments

There was a deficit in the balance of payments in convertible currencies amounting to Sk5 billion. The deficit was caused mainly by the turnover on the capital account. The foreign currency reserves of the National Bank of Slovakia declined by Sk4.4 billion. Expressed in non-convertible currencies, however, there was a surplus of Sk61 billion. In trade with the Czech Republic, there was a surplus of Sk8.8 billion.

In the consolidated balance sheet, there is a surplus of Sk3.9 billion, which is the result of the fact that the surplus on the balance-of-payment current account is higher than the deficit on the capital account.

Debt Level

Slovakia's gross debt was \$1.625 billion on 1 January 1993. If we include the commercial sector's foreign debt, Slovakia's overall foreign debt will become \$2.322 billion. Slovakia inherited one third of the CSFR's debt, which is \$375 million.

The report also deals with the development of relations between the banks and the state sector. The data on the Slovak Republic's Government net position [cista pozicia] toward the banking sector are important. In January and February it reached about Sk31.5 billion, and in June, Sk43.1 billion. The state owed Sk35.2 billion to the National Bank of Slovakia, and Sk7.9 billion to the commercial banks. The report includes a prediction that it will be possible to meet the condition that was set by the IMF, that is, that the net position should not exceed Sk64.9 billion.

The Banking Sector

By the end of the first six months of the year, 17 commercial banks were based in Slovakia. Their fixed assets reached Sk11 billion, of which Sk1.6 billion is

foreign capital. Austria, Germany, Russia, France, and the Czech Republic own the largest shares of foreign banking capital.

Predictions for the Second Half of the Year

The National Bank of Slovakia report describes the monetary development, and the development of the banking and financial sectors. The report includes predictions of the development in the second half-year. Estimates for the inflation level are worth noting. In the first six months, inflation was 14.2 percent (12.1 percent in the Czech Republic), but it may exceed 30 percent by the end of the year. Several factors had an adverse effect on inflation: the increase in the value added tax and the consumer tax, administrative measures, market factors, the smaller market following the separation of the currency, changes in the European Currency Unit exchange rate, administrative steps that made imports more difficult, and the devaluation of the Slovak koruna.

The report states that the National Bank of Slovakia was consistent in implementing the main objectives of the monetary policy. It is expected that in the second half of the year there will be an acceptable inflation level and the internal convertibility of the koruna will be maintained. The report also states that consumer prices will increase by 10 percent.

Cernak Withdraws Complaint Against Meciar

AU2210191093 Bratislava REPUBLIKA in Slovak 21 Oct 93 p 3

[TA SR report: "Cernak Is Withdrawing His Complaint Against Meciar"]

[Text] Bratislava—"I am instructing my legal representative to withdraw the complaint against Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar," said Slovak National Party Chairman Ludovit Cernak.

According to him, the reason for his decision is Article 3 of the coalition agreement that was signed yesterday. It states that the two sides have clarified the misunderstandings that arose during the broken-off coalition talks and these should no longer be a matter of dispute.

Democratic Party Comments on Political Issues

AU2210155493 Bratislava REPUBLIKA in Slovak 19 Oct 93 p 3

[TA SR report: "Meciar, the Father of Slovak Politics...."]

[Text] Bratislava—Democratic Party representatives are comparing the current situation of Slovak National Party [SNS] Chairman Ludovit Cernak, in the context of the development of relations between the SNS and the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS], to a position on a ship's launching ramp. According to the Democratic Party, Cernak will not manage to lead the party out of its most stringent nationalist position.

The former communist connection between the two parties (HZDS and SNS) is still operative, and the SNS, to the disadvantage of itself and of the Slovak Republic, has maintained its original form of two years ago. Democratic Party Chairman Anton Duris made this statement at a news conference in Bratislava yesterday [18 October].

In his view, the only politician who has consistently exercised considerable influence on developments in the Slovak Republic is Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar. It is precisely he who had the singular chance to become the father of Slovak politics. As Duris observed, however, at the outset of independent Slovakia Meciar did not manage to attract a broader political structure of several parties.

The Democratic Party representatives also acquainted the reporters with the stand of their party on the solution to the present crisis in agriculture. The first priority is, according to them, the rapid issue of land and property stakes to parties interested in agricultural production and the creation of legislative conditions for leasing or purchasing property from authorized persons.

Carnogursky Reelected as KDH Chairman

*LD2410171293 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica
Slovensko Network in Slovak 1130 GMT 24 Oct 93*

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The sixth all-Slovak assembly of the Christian Democratic Movement [KDH] continues its session in Ruzomberok [central Slovakia] today. Lubos Krno reports on the topics discussed.

[Passage omitted] [Krno] This morning's agenda consisted of electing KDH's organs and functionaries. Jan Carnogursky was reelected as the chairman of the movement. Four deputy chairmen were elected, too. They are: Ivan Simko responsible for internal policy, Emil Komarik responsible for foreign policy, Frantisek Miklosko responsible for the press and external activities, and in accordance with newly approved rules, Mikulas Dzurinda, the KDH economic expert was elected as the [new] deputy responsible for the economy. [passage omitted]

The KDH assembly was greeted by Pavol Hagar, the chairman of the Conservative Democratic Party, who arrived from nearby Liptovsky Mikulas. His words—and I quote—that he wishes the Slovaks to have a right wing government headed by Jan Carnogursky were, of course, met with exceptionally strong applause by the delegates to the KDH congress. [passages omitted]

Prime Minister Sends National Day Message

AU2410214293 Budapest UJ MAGYARORSZAG in
Hungarian 22 Oct 93 p 5

["Text" of Prime Minister Jozsef Antall's national day message: "The Day of National Cohesion and Revival"]

[Text] My Esteemed Compatriots! On this side of the border and on the other!

This is now the fourth time that we can freely celebrate 23 October 1956, the magnificent day of our modern history that is regarded as a national festive day. The parliamentary will that enacted our sentiments made it possible for the series of our national days to form a unity that depicts our whole history. The festive days of the spring and autumn revolutions and freedom fights virtually embrace the memory of King Saint Stephen, the originator of our statehood and Europeanness.

In addition to being one of our great national festive days, 23 October 1956 is also a symbol for us. It is a symbol of the survival of our people and the unalterable desire for independence, freedom, and always belonging to Europe. The example of the most developed countries has always been before our eyes and we have always borne in mind the absolute need for modernization and the need for catching up. This was not a dream; it followed from our being Europeans, from the solid foundation established by our king who was the founder of the state, from the steadfast work of our people living in the Carpathian basin, and from the intellectual qualities that have so many times enriched the world.

Above all, the 1956 revolution and freedom struggle express the unbending desire of the whole country for a sovereign parliamentary democracy operating on the basis of a multiparty system. This day has become part of our historical mythology which, up to now, has preserved in our souls the feeling of national cohesion and moral revival felt by everyone in those days, whose memory the ruling power tried to wipe out of people's minds through unprecedented reprisal and false silence in the years of the dictatorship. We will always keep the memory of the victims and sufferings of the humiliated families deprived of their homes and livelihood and, at last, with the dignity of a constitutional state, we have the opportunity to point at those who committed these crimes.

This is the first time in the past 37 years that I have been away from my homeland on this day. This time, it is from abroad that I bow my head in front of the steadfastness of those who sacrificed their lives, freedom, and their own and their families' future and livelihood. I thank the Hungarian people who remained faithful—in Hungary or in other parts of the world—to the ideas of 23 October 1956, and those who, taking courage and faith from these, are bearing the heavy burdens inflicted on them by change, world politics, and the world

economy. In my thoughts, I take part in the commemorations together with Hungarian citizens and our compatriots who are celebrating beyond our borders, and I wish them confidence in the implementation of their true goals and happiness in their lives.

Defense Minister Fur Views Army Modernization

AU2210211593 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in
Hungarian 22 Oct 93 pp 1, 11

[Interview with Defense Minister Lajos Fur by Peter Vajda; place and date not given: "Hungary Will Not Start an Arms Race"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Vajda] Mr. Fur, when will we have a defense law, and what will change?

[Fur] I think that a defense law will be passed this month, but even if the legislation were slightly delayed, it would still be desirable to have the law ready by November. Naturally, the lack of time causes problems: While modifying motions have been submitted, our Parliament is extremely busy. It is also desirable to pass the defense law as soon as possible because, after that, our bill on the legal status of our soldiers could also be submitted to Parliament. [passage omitted]

[Vajda] Mr. Fur, it seems certain that Parliament will adopt the law, but many of those who agree with the law strongly criticize your ministry. Tamas Wachler, deputy of the Federation of Young Democrats, said the following recently: "Lack of political and military concepts that can be implemented, the delaying of reforms, the lack of the necessary financial means, and the wasting of existing resources created a situation in recent years in which, through no fault of their own, our Armed Forces have reached the limits of their ability to function. The Defense Ministry bears serious responsibility for this, because, with its haste and lack of concepts, the it made the soldiers suspicious of any change, no matter how progressive the change." What is your answer to all this?

[Fur] All I can say is that it is an exaggeration to claim that nothing happened and there has been no reform or change in concepts. Deliberately formulated concepts emerged, on the basis of which we carried out a reduction in the number of troops, their territorial relocation, and a radical reorganization of our Army's internal structure. By creating streamlined, training, and fully staffed units, we drew the conclusions from the reduction of personnel, relocations, and the new defense concept. We began setting up the so-called defense brigades that are suitable for local territorial defense. I could also mention that we tried to move toward setting up more modern military organizations by at least increasing the available number of airborne and rapid-deployment units, and we already have further units whose level approaches that of these airborne units. The order and quality of our officer training has also changed: Training can be different in four years, rather than only three years.

[Vajda] However, you have really been unable to modernize the Army....

[Fur] We have not been able to modernize everything that should have been modernized, because we do not have the money for that. Our idea that we might be able gradually to modernize the Army beginning with 1994 has proved wrong. The amount of money allocated for development is minimal, and it continues to drop every year. This will take 4 of 5 percent of our budget next year. What is this enough for? The Army Headquarters has a technological development concept, and a detailed implementation plan should have been worked out for this, but we did not do this because we already knew that there was no money for development. [passage omitted]

[Vajda] The bulk of the Russian debt to Hungary is still outstanding. One can hear different statements from government circles on what we would like to receive in exchange for that debt. What is your intention? Does the Army want to get something more from this debt repayment?

[Fur] You would definitely not find anyone in a similar position who does not want to modernize our Army's rather obsolete equipment. It seems that the Russian side is also mostly in favor of such a solution. At the same time, I naturally understand the problems and efforts of our financial administration, too.

[Vajda] What would you like to get?

[Fur] We would like to receive SZA-300 equipment, because we would like to develop further our land air

defense, and this modern equipment would help us in these efforts. [passage omitted]

[Vajda] What is your opinion about the debates on whether we should advance more firmly toward a smaller army than the current one, with more professional soldiers among the troops?

[Fur] These debates originate from the fact that, even if the budget increases in nominal value, it decreases in real value, and this forces us to carry out constant reevaluation, because we are unable to purchase all the equipment needed by a modern army. However, it is an illusion that a reduction in personnel would free such an amount of money with which we could considerably modernize the Army. This is not so. On the contrary: If we took this step, we would have considerable surplus expenses in the first period, for example, because of severance payments. [passage omitted]

No country in Europe or in our region has carried out a reduction of troops similar to the one carried out in Hungary, although the percentage of the Army compared with the size of the population in these countries was approximately as high as it was in Hungary. This percentage today continues to be so high in Romania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Serbia; some reduction only took place in Poland, but the Polish Army still numbers 400,000 troops. Unfortunately, we must also take into account that, with the technology that we now possess and that we expect to possess in the coming years, it is impossible to have a small army, because such an army requires totally different technological conditions. [passage omitted]

Pawlak To Present Government Composition to Walesa

LD2510115793 Warsaw PAP in English 1119 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Warsaw, Oct. 25—President Lech Walesa received before noon on Monday Prime Minister designate Waldemar Pawlak who is to present the composition of his cabinet.

Pawlak went to the Belvedere presidential palace immediately after concluding consultations on the government forming.

The talks held earlier with the leaders of the Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) concerned such ministerial posts as foreign economic relations, privatisation and finance.

Announces Deputy Prime Ministers

LD2510124393 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1200 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] News just in. Prime Minister-designate Waldemar Pawlak has told journalists that there will be three deputy prime ministers in his government. They are Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, who will probably also become the minister of justice, Aleksander Luczak, also the minister of national education, and Marek Borowski, who will be responsible for the economy and will probably also be the minister of finance.

Skubiszewski Not Asked To Stay in Office

LD2210153293 Warsaw PAP in English 1441 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Warsaw, Oct. 22—Prime Minister Designate Waldemar Pawlak did not ask Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski to stay in office "because there is another candidate" for this post, as Skubiszewski said after the meeting.

During the discussion on Polish foreign policy, Skubiszewski stressed that the president is the guarantor of the main lines of this policy. Skubiszewski emphasized to Pawlak that the main foreign policy lines should be continued.

Pawlak Discusses Government Formation

LD2410185993 Warsaw PAP in English 1737 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Warsaw, Oct. 24—A lot can be still done in Poland, if Poles are able to reach agreement and work in concert. Prime Minister Designate Waldemar Pawlak said Saturday in an interview for the Polish press agency PAP and the first programme of Polish radio. The interview was released in full on Sunday.

The leader of the Polish Peasant Party (PSL) announced "openness to various milieus and orientations" and stressed that the cabinet would be composed of competent people irrespective of their party membership.

According to Pawlak, his government will be a government of experts but based on a concrete parliamentary coalition, with responsibility resting with two groupings - the PSL and the Democratic Left Alliance (SLD).

Pawlak denied allegations, made by the opposition, that the SLD-PSL coalition has not many experts and thus certain difficulties with filling ministerial posts arise.

According to Pawlak, it is just the opposite as for some posts there are several candidates. Pawlak added he would like to hold direct talks with all candidates and hear their proposals concerning related ministries. That is why the government formation is not so quick but it will certainly be more fruitful, Pawlak said.

Pawlak expressed the opinion that there are too many problems and too much work to be done in Poland to waste time for political games and disputes. The result of the recent general elections is unequivocal and shows that people are not interested in "shouts and scandals" but in solving concrete problems, the prime minister said.

Asked whether he did not fear that the broad extra-parliamentary opposition composed of right groupings may pose a threat to his cabinet, stirring up strikes and large demonstrations, Pawlak said he counted on open, hard, sometimes very difficult cooperation based, however, on parliamentary discussion and compromise. He said he was interested in cooperation with various circles, various political options including direct talks with the right wing of the political scene.

Pawlak denied rumours that he has to consult his decisions related to filling ministerial posts with leader of the SLD Aleksander Kwasniewski who by some is recognized as a "prime minister without portfolio". He stressed that none of the coalition partners is giving up its identity and that in this respect they remain independent.

Pawlak voiced the opinion that in the present historical situation in Poland one should seek effective solutions to halt processes that deteriorate the economy and social system in the country, to assure visible progress starting from 1994. He also expressed his belief that Poles will be able to reach agreement and achieve a lot in numerous fields by simple organizational solutions.

According to Pawlak, the process of forming his cabinet will be completed at the beginning of next week.

Ministry Publishes 'White Book' on 'Rifle Affair'

AL2210135593 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 21 Oct 93 p 2

[Reports by Edward Krzemien: "Deeds and Pressure"]

[Text] Several thick volumes of notes, diplomatic telegrams, and cryptograms together make up the "white book" of the rifle affair, which was released to journalists yesterday [20 October].

In addition to about 60 documents, the "white book" contains a calendar of events and activities undertaken by the Foreign Ministry in relation to the men involved in this affair. Of the greatest historical importance are letters from Foreign Minister Skubiszewski to German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and to Lawrence Eagleburger, who was acting chief of the U.S. State Department last fall.

Produced in the space of three days, the "white book" is meant to defend the Foreign Ministry against accusations. "We have done everything we could," Foreign Ministry officials say. "The accusations from the men involved and from the press suggesting that the Foreign Ministry neglected the case are unjustified."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Grzegorz Dziemidowicz argues that the "white book" is meant to close the subject, not start fresh polemics about it.

Who is Afraid of the Book?

For the first time since the war, the "white book" reveals cryptograms. However, these are presented only in summary form, because of the need to protect secret codes.

Unofficial sources have told us that when the "white book" was already at the printing press, the American and German authorities attempted to pressurize the Foreign Ministry into halting publication. The Foreign Ministry has officially refused to comment on this matter.

But Dr. Zbigniew Lewicki from the Foreign Ministry is sure that neither the rifle affair itself, nor the "white book" describing it, will have any impact on Polish-American relations.

Those opposed to the publication of this book include the subjects of the rifle affair themselves. Their wives,

who were received by former Prime Minister Suchocka on Tuesday, said that they do not wish to return to the subject, and wish to avoid a new dispute with the Foreign Ministry.

The "white book" creates a big impression. It seems that the Foreign Ministry and government have defended the six men without any reservations from the very beginning, even though they originally created the impression, perhaps unintentionally, that the whole case was not particularly important.

The following is a transcript of Dr. Lewicki's conversation with the U.S. ambassador in Warsaw on 7 July 1992: "I made it clear that we do not and will not acquiesce to the American demand to extradite the accused men to the United States in a situation where the deed they have committed does not constitute a crime either in Poland or in the country where they were arrested, in other words Germany. I argued that the demand to release the five Polish citizens and return them to Poland reflects the firm stance of the Polish Government and the main political forces."

Who Will Pay the Lawyers?

The problem of money appears in many of the documents. For example, the Lucznik arms firm has written to the Foreign Ministry saying that it does not have \$18,000 with which to pay the fee for Rajmund Szwonder's lawyer. To this very day, the American lawyer Cahill has not received the remainder of his fee, in other words about \$20,000. We learn from another document that the Foreign Ministry has no money for U.S. legal reports.

The "white book" also discloses that last April, the Polish authorities refused to provide Interpol with details of the five Poles in question, as well as details about other persons and institutions involved in the Polish arms trade.

Government Statement on U.S. Ratification of Accord*AU2210121093 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 22 Oct 93*

[Text] The following statement has been faxed to us by the government spokesman:

Romania's Government has greeted with particular satisfaction the finalization of the ratification process by the U.S. Congress of the trade accord with Romania, which also envisages the restoration of the most-favored-nation status for our country.

This significant event marked by the favorable decision made by the U.S. Senate on 21 October 1993, which followed a similar decision by the House of Representatives on 12 October, sanctions the full normalization of relations between Romania and the United States, thus paving the way for a new stage of consolidating and expanding Romanian-American cooperation in all areas.

The ratification and the imminent coming into effect of the bilateral trade accord also signifies considerable support by the United States for the democratization and reform process, and for the transition to a market economy in our country, by encouraging American business circles to participate in the restructuring and privatization of the Romanian economy, in intensifying trade exchanges, and in increasing assistance and investment of capital in Romania, the statement by the Romanian Government emphasizes in conclusion.

PDSR Welcomes U.S. Decision*AU2210195593 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1739 GMT 22 Oct 93*

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 22/10/1993—The Party of Social Democracy of Romania [PDSR], ruling party, assesses in a release issued in Bucharest that through the vote granting Romania the most favoured nation status [MFN], the U.S. Congress has completed the process of ratification of the trade agreement with Romania that consecrates the full normalization of the Romanian-American relations, also accounting for an encouragement to all democratic political forces in this country in the process of consolidating the reform.

The Party of Social Democracy of Romania assesses that the ratification and impending coming into force of the trade agreement, a moment waited for with justified hope by Romanian public opinion—accounts for an important support given by the United States to the transition to a market economy, to this country's economic progress and security, a significant contribution to the development of the Romanian-American economic relations and to the deepening of the process of democratization of the Romanian society.

Vacaroiu Accepts Culture Minister's Resignation*AU2210203093 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1900 GMT 22 Oct 93*

[Text] At the end of today's cabinet meeting, the ministers discussed the resignation of Mr. Petre Salcudeanu, minister of culture. The government decided to pronounce itself on the resignation request, after the relevant inquiry bodies will present their conclusions.

After the government's meeting, around 1630 GMT, Mr. Petre Salcudeanu told our correspondent the following:

[Begin Salcudeanu recording] As specified in the news conference held after the conclusion of today's government session, I presented my written resignation to Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu this morning at 0700 GMT. Following the discussions that took place there, which emphasized the well-staged, well-orchestrated, and well-directed character of the media campaign against me, the conclusion was reached that the result of the discussions should be communicated after the inquiry commission concludes its activities on this affair.

I thank the government and government members for the fact that they realized that the whole thing was a set-up. At the same time, I cannot forget the way in which I was treated by the press, neither can I forget that, through no fault of mine, the Ministry of Culture and, implicitly, the government had to suffer because of it. Therefore, I insisted that Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu should accept my resignation. The resignation was accepted and I thank him for that. [end recording]

Iliescu Returns From Africa, Makes Statement*AU2310204893 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1800 GMT 23 Oct 93*

[Text] Romania's President Ion Iliescu, together with the delegation that accompanied him, returned to Bucharest this afternoon after an eight-day official tour of Zimbabwe, South Africa, Kenya, and Yemen. Between 16 and 18 October, the Romanian head of state participated in the francophone conference in Port Louis, capital city of the Mauritius Islands.

In a statement made upon his return home, President Ion Iliescu summed up the content of his visits and contacts there in two parts. The first part refers to the political aspects of the tour; the second part deals with the economic ones.

Apropos of the first chapter, the Romanian president particularly emphasized his participation in the meeting of heads of state and government from countries linked by the use of the French language—a meeting that took place in Mauritius—where Romania was accepted as full member. Referring to the visits paid to South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Yemen, President Iliescu said that he had broad contacts with politicians, heads of state and government, or, in the case of South Africa,

with the representatives of the four major political trends there, who are currently engaged in negotiations that will change the physiognomy of the social and political life of that country, which has an outstanding economic potential and is a very important economic partner for Romania.

We are a loyal partner to all the countries I visited on this tour, President Ion Iliescu said. All of our partners expressed their readiness to continue to promote economic relations with us, which acquire new substance in the new circumstances experienced both by them and by our country.

Generally speaking, President Ion Iliescu said, these days of active contacts occasioned by my visits there have emphasized an ongoing feature of Romanian foreign policy, namely a concern with consolidating our international presence and relations with countries all over the world.

Answering a question about the granting of most-favored-nation status to our country by the United States, President Ion Iliescu expressed satisfaction and hope that the newly established conditions for the development of bilateral relations will bear fruit.

Nastase Opens Symposium on Political Dialogue

AU 2210204993 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1420 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 22/10/1993—Are political parties necessary or not at this moment? The question is troubling especially considering the political life in Romania. This proposal for a dialogue, made by Adrian Nastase, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and president of the Democratic Party of Social Democracy of Romania [PDSR], opened the symposium on "Political Dialogue During Crisis", scheduled on October 22-24. It stirred a plea for non-conflict policies, behaviors, relations among political parties on an internal plane but also for active partnership on an external plane. "We need dialogue in crisis conditions", Nastase concluded. Actually, we need collaboration in competition, added Senator Adrian Popescu Necsesti (National Liberal Party-Democratic Convention), continuing in this way another facet of the discussion. The standpoint of the minister of the interior was sustained by Ghiciu Pascu, secretary of state, who emphasized the idea of "public order and political dialogue". Gabriel Andreescu, president of the Civic Alliance, proposed "a political dialogue between the civil society and the political society", and Liberal Party '93 Senator Emil Tocaci suggested a correlation between the opposition factors and the parameters of the political forces in Romania.

The debates will continue on the concept of crisis.

Ministry Official on Talks With EC Delegates

AU 2210182693 Bucharest AZI in Romanian 19 Oct 93 p 2

[Interview with Mihai Berinde, secretary of state, head of Foreign Trade Department at the Ministry of Commerce, and chairman of the Romanian delegation to the Joint Romanian-EC Commission, by Adela Dinica; place and date not given: "Romania and the Common Market"]

[Text] [Dinica] The meeting of the Romania-European Community [EC] Joint Commission was held in Bucharest on 14-15 October 1993, the first of its kind since the interim agreement on our country's association with the EC came into force. Mihai Berinde, secretary of state, head of the Foreign Trade Department of the Ministry of Commerce and chairman of the Romanian side in the Joint Romanian-EC Commission comments on the goals of this meeting.

[Berinde] To start with, I would like to note that this is not the first Romania-EC commission. This was the 11th session of the Joint Commission with the EC, established on the basis of an accord signed in 1980. However, in the new context, it is the first time we have met to try to stimulate the process of Romania's integration into European structures. The major goal of the current session of the Joint Commission was, on the one hand, to examine the stage of bilateral relations between our country and the EC, and on the other hand, to establish ways to implement the interim agreement appropriately and to make adequate use of it.

[Dinica] What can you tell us about the results of the discussions with the EC partners?

[Berinde] The sides agreed on the need for a more harmonious development of commercial exchanges, meaning that, in the next period, Romanian exports to the community markets should increase and thus, the commercial balance should be evened out. In this framework, positive statements were made about the measures that were taken by the Council of Europe in Copenhagen on 21-22 (2 June) 1993 and that were meant to facilitate the access of Romanian products to the markets of the EC countries. The period for eliminating custom duties on imports applied by the EC for industrial products, other than textiles and metallurgy, was reduced from five to three years. In the field of trade with metallurgical products, proposals were made to reduce by one year the period for the elimination of custom duties on imports to the Community and there is hope that it will be further reduced by one year in the coming period. Similarly, in the textiles trade the six years has been reduced to five and there are concrete conditions, as of 1 January 1994, to have Romanian exports, achieved within the framework of bilateral trade relations, totally exempt from custom duties. In the field of agricultural produce, the Romanian side insisted that the EC should apply the concessions agreed upon in the interim agreement and suggested that the date scheduled for reducing custom

duties on imports should be implemented six months ahead of schedule. As far as the application of the interim agreement is concerned, the Romanian side presented measures adopted by the Ministry of Commerce in this respect, namely the drafting of the new customs duty regulations for imports; the trade minister's act to issue certain orders for establishing legal ceilings and quotas for imports to Romania; and actions carried out by the Ministry of Commerce in the area of training personnel and publicizing the content of the interim agreement. In this context the need was stressed for receiving assistance from the EC, and new joint subcommittees were set up in areas of common interests, such as: metallurgy, agriculture, competition, harmonization of legislation, the environment, science and technology, and cooperation in the field of customs.

[Dinica] What is the role played by these subcommittees?

[Berinde] They have the task of approaching in a concrete way various aspects specific to the respective sectors and to make proposals to the authorities of both sides about technicalities in solving certain problems that come up. The fact that some of those subcommittees will be in charge of problems that go beyond the interim agreement represents a step toward the act of preparing the finalization and the implementation of the European accord on Romania's association with the European Community.

[Dinica] How do you assess the negotiations?

[Berinde] We could say that they were held in a positive, open atmosphere and all discussions were very pragmatic. Concrete solutions were examined for problems connected with bilateral Romanian-EC relations. This is the opinion that was heard from representatives of both sides.

Social Democratic Alliance Elects Leadership

AU 2210191593 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 20 Oct 93 p 3

[Article by Corneliu Antim: "The Social-Democratic Alliance Has a New Coordination Council"]

[Text] Recently the two political groups, that is, the Democratic Party (National Salvation Front) and the Traditional Social Democratic Party of Romania, which at the beginning of last summer set up the Social Democratic Alliance, has elected the new leadership structures. Victor Babiuc [former interior minister] is the president of the Coordination Council and he is assisted in daily activities by six vice presidents, a General Secretariat, and a Consultative-Doctrine Committee. The Social Democratic Alliance launched an appeal in which, among other things, it is noted: "currently we face a political, economic, and moral crisis, which causes everyone hardships that are more and more difficult to bear; thus, all genuinely social democratic forces and personalities in Romania are called upon to give up their

personal suspicions and vanity and unite in the effort to propose a viable alternative to the current government, a joint program capable of ensuring the revival of reform and an adequate social protection.... History will punish us if in this critical moment we do not show wisdom and the will to achieve this condition of union!"

CDR Executive Committee Examines Economy

AU 2210205493 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1413 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 22/10/1993—A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Democratic Convention [CDR] of Romania analyzed on October 21 the current situation in the country.

The participants emphasized that the functional blockage in the social life were due mostly to the insufficient operational framework. The priority promotion was decided of laws of utmost importance that can make an essential contribution to the removal of the respective blockages. They referred to the local public budgets, the public property, education, ministerial responsibility, national defense, organization of Police and policeman's statute, redemption of real estate and tenants' protection, territorial-administrative reorganization.

The CDR Executive Committee also endorsed "criteria of deontology of the CDR formations, that become an operational text of the CDR" and discussed reports of strategy and legislative departments, reads a release from the Democratic Convention's Press Office.

Iranian Terrorists Allegedly Training in Transylvania

AU 2510063893 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 22 Oct 93 p 3

[Report by "B.T.": "Terrorist Training in Fogaras"]

[Text] If the news is true, international scandal can arise from it, the Bucharest CRONICA ROMANA writes in its 21 October issue on the information according to which the Romanian Intelligence Service trains terrorists for the Iranian Hizballah. This newspaper, together with the publication called NU in Cluj refers to a report by Iran's ambassador [Seyyed Rasul Muhajer] to Bucharest.

In this report, the diplomat from Tehran states that, accompanied by Virgil Magureanu, director of the intelligence service, he recently visited the training camp. The camp is in Transylvania, near Fogaras [Fagaras]. "The Iranian volunteers are being trained to participate in the south Slav crisis; the units dropped over from Romania would enter the struggle on the side of the Muslims" the ambassador states in his report, a photocopy of which was published in the Cluj newspaper. The name and signature of the ambassador can be clearly seen on this.

The two newspapers also report on another document, also from the diplomat of the Iranian Embassy in Bucharest. This confirms the already aired information that volunteers from Moldova are also being prepared in the Fogaras training camp to violently overthrow Moldovan President Mircea Snegur, the leader in Chisinau.

To the telephone enquiry of the independent AP PRESS news agency, the intelligence service said: "The Romanian Intelligence Service does not deal with such things."

Government's 'Brezhnev-Type Stagnation' Criticized

AU2110202793 Bucharest *EVENIMENTUL ZILEI* in Romanian 19 Oct 93 p 1

[Editorial by Ion Cristoiu: "The Brezhnev-Type Stagnation Again in Discussion"]

[Text] Few newspapers commented on the news item released by ROMPRES, according to which the leadership of the "A Future for Romania" Foundation discussed at its latest meeting its program for 1994. The total silence surrounding this meeting can be explained primarily by the Foundation's inability to advertise its activity in the media. This is something I really cannot understand, since the Foundation is led by prominent political figures—from he who is astutely fulfilling the task of interim prime minister these days, Dan Mircea Popescu, up to the governor of the National Bank, Mugur Isarescu. Nevertheless, the Foundation has not yet found a way of ingratiating itself with journalists. It is no less true that the press itself is not all that eager to discover and publicize the activities of the "A Future for Romania" Foundation. The Foundation is not a political party. It is not in power and does not aspire (for the time being) to such a thing. It is satisfied to make studies and forecasts about the current status of Romanian society. But then, there is hardly anyone in the Romanian press still interested in such studies and forecasts!

Nevertheless, the latest meeting of the "A Future for Romania" Foundation deserved much greater attention from the press, because the Foundation's 1944 program adopted at the meeting goes beyond the stage of mere theoretical analysis and acquires the significance of a major political event. The main targets for 1994 are based on a merciless x-ray of the period through which the Romanian society is currently going. Romania, the document writes, is now faced with an "array of opportunities" as far as reform is concerned. Domestically, "people are displaying an increased readiness to continue the reform," since they "have largely given up the unrealistic expectations of the first post-revolutionary period." At an external level, the international community is more prepared now to support domestic solutions that are less simplistic than the solutions promulgated until now. This favorable moment for Romania, about which I also wrote in a previous editorial, is in flagrant contradiction—the Foundation's document points out—with the present social, political, and economic blockage.

Although the program does not say so clearly, one can compare this blockage with that in the last years of Ceausescu's [former communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu] regime, which led to the December 1989 explosion. In practical terms, the entire social, political, and economic life of the country is paralyzed. The government spends its time resolving urgent daily problems. The Parliament has turned into an exasperating words-grinding mill. The opposition gets lost in petty internal feuds. One cannot see a trend toward consolidation at the level of either power or the opposition. Despite appearances, the governmental coalition is equally devoid of unity and it is as confuse as the opposition. Although it has two presidents, Adrian Nastase and Oliviu Gherman, the Social Democracy Party of Romania [PDSR] has no political leader capable of leaving its imprint on the parliamentary group and the entire party. The de facto leader of the government party, Ion Iliescu, gives no signs of political will. Consequently, the PDSR activity, vital to the country's progress, is stagnating. More seriously, PDSR cannot offer the government a well defined economic, social, and political program. Ion Iliescu's party won the elections on the basis of a demagogic and populist program, destined to be irrelevant from the start. Nobody in the PDSR leadership seriously thought of implementing that program. In these circumstances, it would have been normal for the PDSR to substantially change its program, or even come up with another one. In the absence of such a program, the PDSR leaders and the party's de facto head Ion Iliescu are content with constantly invoking the need for reform and democracy. However, the concepts of reform and democracy have no precise meaning in post-revolutionary Romania. Consequently, to keep talking about reform and democracy on each and every occasion means nothing. The important thing is to establish the concrete goals of the process of reform and democracy. At the present time, as the Foundation program points out, it is these very aims that are missing. In their absence, the government has no other choice than to deal with minor matters, such as the placement of various statues around Bucharest, for example.

Forecast-analyses of our society are being mass produced in today's Romania. Why then is the study made by the "A Future for Romania" Foundation something special? The answer is simple. The authors of that study are not simple journalists or political scientists. They are well placed figures of today's power structures. The severe criticism of the current Brezhnev-type stagnation included in the Foundation's program as well as the plea for an "array of opportunities," can be seen as a clear signal that something is cooking in these very power structures.

'Snail's Paced Progress' Toward Reform Criticized

AU2210155593 Bucharest *TINERETUL LIBER* in Romanian 19 Oct 93

[Editorial by Stefan Nicolae: "Reform in the Rhythm of a Tango"]

[Excerpts] Any serious and objective study on the progress of the reform process in Romania cannot but recall the divorce between the initial and current government program (viewed as very liberal in its intentions) and the snail's paced progress of effective measures toward the market economy. To the reproaches by the press and opposition on the subject, Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu and other members of his cabinet replied that, in fact, the orientation of the government policy is still pro-reform. The arguments used to prove this were that during this government's term the value-added tax and the so-called price liberalization (we say so-called, because it is partially disguised) were introduced. These measures were part of an agenda agreed upon with IMF. But in reality, denationalization, side by side with the privatization process, the cessation of financial support for unprofitable enterprises, the encouragement of a monetary policy that will stimulate investment, and the creation of a legal framework that will attract foreign capital, all of which are important and even essential elements of the program pursued by the current government, are elements which do not exist in the Vacaroiu government's practice. For, in reality—as was emphasized when the government was "reshuffled"—those government members in charge with the application of the reform lacked any kind of decision-making powers. These are truths that were admitted by Mr. Misu Negritoiu at the time and we do not wish to dwell on them.

But what is less known—and this is why we have dwelt on this subject—is that international credit bodies eventually understood the real substance of our government's economic policy and this explains why we will not have the necessary hard currency in the autumn to secure the energy resources to cope with the coming winter. Maybe this time General Winter will be more powerful than the opposition and the trade unions, and will totally compromise what little credibility that this government still has. [passage omitted]

Trying dangerously to navigate among several wrongs, to adopt reform measures, which should, however, be popular, and to take measures to give an impetus to a genuine market economy, while not renouncing (prompted by political considerations, but also by convictions) leftist concepts, this government will not make us feel the real weight of its actions until the winter. Before that, the executive power will not pass up any opportunity to boast that, owing to its wise policy along the road to democratization and the market economy, it has received good-behavior certificates from the Council of Europe, the U.S. Congress (most-favored-nation status), and now from Africa by the Francophone movement. Though positive by themselves, these distinctions, however, will not even move us one inch forward on the road to a society of prosperity as long as we continue the reform process in the rhythm of a tango.

**Foreign Media Bulletin: Balkan Crisis 25 October
WA2510173593**

The following is an overview of current FBIS reporting on events in the Balkans. It supplements other FBIS reporting and consists primarily of selected summaries of longer reports. For reference purposes, serial numbers of the longer reports are provided.

SUMMARY

Muslim party proposes Foreign Minister Silajdzic for new prime minister ... Silajdzic charges Croatian Government interfering in Bosnia's internal affairs ... Bosnian Serb, Muslim delegations meet in Sarajevo ... Krajina Serbs agree to resume negotiations with Croatian Army ... Bosnian Serbs reportedly launch artillery attack on Sarajevo ... TANJUG says Muslims accused of using chemical weapons.

POLITICAL

SILAJDZIC NOMINATED FOR PRIME MINISTER (Sarajevo Radio): Muslim Party of Democratic Action, which has a large majority in the Bosnian Assembly, proposes Foreign Minister Silajdzic to replace former Prime Minister Akamadzic, a Croat who was removed by the Bosnian Presidency in August. (AU2510123593)

SILAJDZIC PROTESTS TO GRANIC (Sarajevo Radio): Silajdzic sends letter to Croatian Foreign Minister Granic saying he was "stunned" to hear of Thursday's meeting in Zagreb between western Bosnian leader Abdic and Bosnian Croat leader Boban, accuses Croatia, which sponsored the meeting, of "interference" in Bosnia's "internal affairs." (LD2310080093)

SERBS, MUSLIMS DISCUSS POW EXCHANGE (TANJUG): Bosnian Serb, Muslim delegations meet in Sarajevo to discuss suspended agreement to exchange prisoners of war. Bosnian Serb official Krajcnik says he is "not satisfied" with the results of the talks, accuses Muslims of having "many local warlords" who are "obstructing the exchange process." (LD2210174393)

KRAJINA SERBS AGREE TO TALKS (TANJUG): Krajina Serbs agree to resume peace negotiations with Croatian Army under the auspices of UN forces. (LD2410142293)

MILITARY

SERBS CONTINUE ATTACK ON SARAJEVO: AFP quotes UNPROFOR officials as saying that heavy artillery attacks by Bosnian Serb forces killed five and wounded 37. (AU2310195493)

MUSLIMS REPORTEDLY USE TOXIC WEAPONS: According to TANJUG report, UNPROFOR officials say that Muslim forces "admitted" they are "using chemical weapons" in Bosnia in order "to prove the capability of the Bosnian Army." (LD2310072693)

SDA Nominates Silajdzic for Prime Minister

LC2210123493 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina
Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] After considering all the nominations, the Executive Committee of the Party of Democratic Action proposed Haris Silajdzic as prime minister designate in the firm belief that he will be able to form a competent government, which will be able to mobilize all the energy of society with a realistic program, an expert approach to concrete problems, and (initial) results in the struggle for survival and development on the basis of our nation's indisputable human, natural, and moral potentials.

The proposal of the strongest parliamentary party states that the successes achieved so far recommend Haris Silajdzic as a person who, with his exceptional reputation, can contribute to the even firmer international legitimacy of the Government of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Karadzic, Abdic Issue Joint Declaration

LD2210143493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in
Serbo-Croatian 1345 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Belgrade, 22 Oct (TANJUG)—Radovan Karadzic, president of the republic of Srpska, and Fikret Abdic, president of the autonomous province of western Bosnia, signed a joint declaration in Belgrade today, motivated by the objective of reaching a lasting peace between the Serbs and Muslims in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The declaration was passed jointly, with the participation of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

The declaration reads:

At the invitation of the President of Serbia, Slobodan Milosevic, and motivated by the objective of reaching a lasting peace between the Serbs and Muslims in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Radovan Karadzic, president of the republic of Srpska, and Fikret Abdic, president of the autonomous province of western Bosnia, have met in Belgrade and decided, jointly and with the participation of Slobodan Milosevic, president of the Republic of Serbia, to adopt the following declaration:

- The republic of Srpska acknowledges the existence, the will, and the legal authorities of the autonomous province of western Bosnia of the republic of Bosnia, as envisaged by the Owen-Stoltenberg plan.
- The autonomous province of western Bosnia acknowledges the republic of Srpska's existence, the will of its people, and its legal authorities. It recognizes the republic of Srpska as one of the three constituent republics of the union of Bosnia-Herzegovina, as envisaged by the Owen-Stoltenberg peace plan.
- On behalf of their citizens and governments, presidents Radovan Karadzic and Fikret Abdic solemnly

conclude peace and proclaim the beginning of the development of goodneighborly relations and multifaceted cooperation in the spheres of politics, economics, transportation, culture, and sports.

- Complete freedom of movement through the entire territory of the republic of Srpska is guaranteed to all citizens of the autonomous province of western Bosnia and the complete freedom of movement through the entire territory of the autonomous province of western Bosnia is guaranteed to all citizens of the republic of Srpska, providing they are in possession of valid travel documents or an official identity card issued by the respective authorities of the autonomous province of western Bosnia, or the republic of Srpska.
- Border crossing points between the republic of Srpska and the autonomous province of western Bosnia will be established at points designated by the representatives of the republic of Srpska and the autonomous province of western Bosnia within 48 hours of the proclamation of this declaration. All border crossings will be opened and equipped with adequate facilities on the basis of mutual consent and within a period of seven days of the proclamation of this declaration.
- All basic freedoms and human rights, stipulated by relevant international legal instruments and political documents, in accordance with Owen-Stoltenberg peace plan, are mutually guaranteed.
- All persons who are found to have violated regulations of the international law governing war will be tried before the regular courts of the republic of Srpska or the courts of the autonomous province of western Bosnia of the Republic of Bosnia.
- All persons who have left their homes because of the civil war are granted the right to return to them if they so wish.
- Presidents Radovan Karadzic and Fikret Abdic will within seven days appoint a commission for border issues, with the mandate to define borders between the republic of Srpska and the autonomous province of western Bosnia of the Republic of Bosnia, with the most important task of defining the borders in the area of the town of Krupa, on the right bank of the river Una.
- Presidents Radovan Karadzic and Fikret Abdic again confirm that all convoys carrying international humanitarian aid will be granted free passage on the entire territory of the republic of Srpska and the autonomous province of western Bosnia of the Republic of Bosnia, in order to provide aid to all those who need it.
- Presidents Radovan Karadzic and Fikret Abdic express the hope that the leadership of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina in Sarajevo will join their declaration and stress their readiness to launch negotiations with them on this issue as soon as possible.

—Presidents Radovan Karadzic and Fikret Abdic express gratitude to Slobodan Milosevic, president of the Republic of Serbia, for his great contribution in reaching a just and lasting peace between the republic of Srpska and the autonomous province of western Bosnia of the Republic of Bosnia.

The declaration is signed by Radovan Karadzic, president of the republic of Srpska, and by Fikret Abdic, president of the autonomous province of western Bosnia of the Republic of Bosnia.

The president of the Republic of Serbia attests to the reaching of the agreement and assumes the obligation of mediating if difficulties arise during its implementation.

Milosevic, Karadzic, Abdic Comment

AU2210173693 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1550 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Report by Gordana Sumenkovic on news conference by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic; Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs; and Fikret Abdic, leader of the Muslims from part of western Bosnia, in Belgrade on 22 October—recorded]

[Text] [Sumenkovic] The first journalist's question was: What was Serbia's role in the signing of the agreement [in Belgrade on 22 October]?

[Milosevic] You know very well that we had quite a firm and clear stand even before the war broke out in Bosnia-Herzegovina, namely that Bosnia-Herzegovina can be settled with the will of and by respecting the interests of all three peoples, and that this unnecessary war actually broke out because such a stand on the need to respect the will and interests of all three peoples was not respected, and because a violent attempt was made to carry through a policy that led this Republic to a catastrophe and great bloodshed.

Therefore, this continues a policy of finding a peaceful settlement to the main political issues and I think that we ought to be satisfied, I would say, more than satisfied, with the results achieved. I would like to remind you of our joint declaration signed here in Belgrade last week, on 14 October, when we very clearly sent a message to the Muslim side in Bosnia-Herzegovina finally to consider peace, that the Serbian side does not want to exploit their internal clashes, and that it is only trying to achieve peace. We hope that the hand offered will not be rejected, not by the authorities in Sarajevo, either.

I am sorry that President Izetbegovic is not here with us today to put his signature to peace, but hope that it will not be long before the people and the authorities in the Republic of Bosnia make a step toward this and toward a lasting peace throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina, that is, accept a peace plan about which all of you know enough, and that we think represents the basis for a just and lasting peace and the affirmation of the interests of all three peoples in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[Sumenkovic] In a reply to a question on what Alija Izetbegovic's reaction was going to be, Fikret Abdic said:

[Abdic] First, it would have been quite normal for Mr. Alija Izetbegovic to be present during the signing of a statement in Zagreb yesterday and this declaration. However, the public knows that after the adoption of a decision to set up the autonomous province of western Bosnia within the Republic of Bosnia and the union of the republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina, instead of congratulations from Mr. Izetbegovic, [Ejup] Ganic, and other members of the Presidency, we heard that this was an act that was breaking up Bosnia-Herzegovina. Myself and others in the autonomous province of western Bosnia think that this is an act that is developing Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Just because of that, an order was issued to the 5th Corps [of the Army of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina] even to use force to prevent the work of the autonomous province of western Bosnia. We, and myself personally, reacted to that, to the use of force, with a letter to Alija Izetbegovic and Ganic asking them to come to the autonomous province of western Bosnia so that we can explain to them the document on the founding of the province, to explain to them the constitutional provisions on the basis of which the province was founded, and the problems that have arisen since its founding.

These gentlemen did not even bother to reply to the letter, let alone do anything. This can in no way prevent us from realizing the aims, that is, the demands that have been launched through the initiative to found the autonomous province of western Bosnia.

After the 5th Corps, under orders, used force against the civilian population, Mr. Adil Zulfikarpasic wrote a letter saying that there is no sense in doing this within the Muslim nation, and proposed that Mr. Izetbegovic and I meet in Zurich, that he was prepared to host mediation. I immediately replied to the letter, proposing that this meeting take place in the autonomous province of western Bosnia. I agreed that Mr. Izetbegovic and other people whom he thinks should come to the autonomous province of western Bosnia, and Mr. Adil Zulfikarpasic, should come and hold such a meeting.

Mr. Izetbegovic did not reply to Mr. Zulfikarpasic. Therefore, I do not have any obligations to Izetbegovic, but have great obligations to the citizens of the autonomous province of western Bosnia, because the main aims of founding the autonomous province of western Bosnia was to establish a lasting peace. We cannot establish a lasting peace among ourselves. We can achieve it with the Croatian and Serbian sides. Our meetings and signing of the statement yesterday and the agreement today was inevitable. This was our obligation to the citizens, and not individuals.

[Sumenkovic] Radovan Karadzic answered the same question:

[Karadzic] Well, I believe that this will be a great encouragement for the people as a whole, for local leaderships, and I hope for the central authorities, too. Namely, the example of the autonomous province of western Bosnia could be sensed along the front lines ever since its formation and favorable attitude toward peace. Numerous villages at local level are agreeing cease-fires, even exchanges of goods. Therefore, I anticipate that this can only contribute toward the popularization of the idea of peace. The people will sense that peace brings certain benefits, which war destroys. I am convinced that we will get support from the people as a whole. I hope that the leaderships will be forced to follow their people.

[Sumenkovic] Radovan Karadzic was also asked whether there would be such meetings with the representatives of Herceg-Bosna, too:

[Karadzic] We have met with the representatives of Herceg-Bosna on different issues. Basically, peace between the republics of Srpska and Herceg-Bosna emerged spontaneously, so to speak, seven months ago. The final battles actually took place more than seven months ago. Ever since, there has been no war between the republics of Srpska and Herceg-Bosna. Regardless of the fact that we did not resolve certain territorial issues, we expect them to be resolved in the future. I believe it has been demonstrated here that the peace plan of Owen and Stoltenberg is a good basis for the continuation and establishment of peace, even in the circumstances where certain territorial issues have been left to be resolved later. For the republic of Srpska, the war is over. We do not have war anywhere within our territory. As of now, we will not even have incidents on the border with western Bosnia. There are no incidents on the border with Herceg-Bosna. I hope that we will soon have no more incidents on the border with the Republic of Bosnia.

[Sumenkovic] Asked whether military assistance was included in the declaration, Karadzic replied negatively, while Milosevic emphasized:

[Milosevic] I ask you to understand that this is not simply a declaration. The document is called a declaration, but it can be interpreted as an agreement about a just and lasting peace between the republic of Srpska and the autonomous province of western Bosnia. Doubtless, with the signing of this document, peace is incomparably closer than it had been until yesterday. I am aware that the forces that advocate war can cause more damage and further bloodshed in the course of their final defeat. However, I am also convinced that nobody can stop restoration of peace to the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina, be it by extremist forces within Bosnia-Herzegovina or various foreign factors whom peace does not suit.

[Sumenkovic] Milosevic was also asked what reaction one could expect from the world:

[Milosevic] Well, I hope that nobody in the world will question the significance of this. I would say, historic

step toward peace. Just because the peace throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina cannot be accomplished in one step but rather in two, this does not belittle the significance of the first steps, which is not half way to peace but full peace on half of the territory. I hope that peace will also envelop the other half of the territory.

I would like to say that I have personally contacted the conference chairmen and President Izetbegovic by telephone a few days ago, proposing that, because of the remaining minor controversial issues, the Muslim and the Serbian sides finally meet to find solutions for these remaining issues. It is clear to anyone, any citizen, that there is no agreement or project that would fail just because of 1 or 2 percent. Putting forward 1 or 2 percent can merely be an excuse and not a reason for the continuation of such a cruel war that is being waged on the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina. I believe that we will proceed in the direction of peace and that this hand offered will be accepted.

As you have just heard from President Karadzic, the Serbian side will not take one single step to worsen relations with the remaining part of the Republic of Bosnia, with which peace has not been agreed. On the contrary, it guarantees the Muslim side that they will not be attacked anywhere just because they are currently in trouble. The Serbian side guarantees them a chance to sit down again and continue negotiations to bring them to a successful end.

I hope that these initiatives and primarily the part accomplished today will have a positive influence on the acceleration of the entire peace process.

[Sumenkovic] Asked what kind of a response he had had from Alija Izetbegovic, Milosevic said:

[Milosevic] A positive one in principle. There is a need to carry out certain preparations between the representatives of the republic of Srpska and the Republic of Bosnia, but the response was positive. I hope that this initiative will bear fruit.

[Sumenkovic] The news conference ended with Fikret Abdic's words:

[Abdic] I think that one more thing should be added here. The presence of Mr. Tudjman and Mr. Milosevic at the signing of these documents and the talks in general, I think that no one can criticize that, not on the personal level against Mr. Boban, Karadzic, or myself, as we only accepted the practice of Lord Owen and Stoltenberg from Geneva. [sentence as heard] Therefore, this is a continuity, a continuation of the Geneva practice.

Abdic Interviewed

LD2310211593 Zagreb HTV Television in
Serbo-Croatian 2215 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Interview with Fikret Abdic, president of the autonomous province of western Bosnia, by unidentified correspondent at the HTV studio in Zagreb on the "Images Versus Images" program—live]

[Text] Our guest tonight is Fikret Abdic, president of the autonomous province of western Bosnia. Good evening, Mr. Abdic, and welcome to our program. The first comment I have heard on the signing of this agreement with Radovan Karadzic in Belgrade is, well, Fikret Abdic is sitting on two chairs. Why are you sitting on two chairs? And, is this true?

[Abdic] It is a well-known fact that immediately after the decision to set up the autonomous province of western Bosnia [Bosnian President] Izetbegovic reacted harshly to this decision by demanding that the 5th Corps protect the citizens of the autonomous province of western Bosnia from Fikret Abdic's obstinacy. On that occasion I sent a letter to Mr. Izetbegovic. In it I demanded he and Ganic visit the autonomous province of western Bosnia and discuss major political, economic, and military issues in Krajina so that he could define his attitude, within the context of this analysis, to the decision to set up the autonomous province of western Bosnia.

[Correspondent] So, the president of Croatia [Franjo Tudjman] was present. Why did he not sign as....

[Abdic] Yes, he was present, but he did not sign the declaration because that statement is practically an extension of the declaration signed by Mr. Tudjman and Mr. Izetbegovic in mid-September 1993 in Geneva. This is why Tudjman did not sign it. Otherwise, he would have signed the declaration too, just as Milosevic signed the one today along with Karadzic and myself.

This is therefore a logical development. I have to hold talks with a Croatian delegation and then with a delegation representing the Serbian people because this is the only way for me to achieve the basic aim of my mission, which is a lasting peace, first in the territory of the autonomous province of western Bosnia, and then on the example of that, throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[Correspondent] There is another unavoidable question among the first reactions: why was the declaration signed in Belgrade and under Milosevic's auspices? Some claim that this is extremely handy for Milosevic to present himself as peacemaker.

[Abdic] Yes, I know that. Even some of my supporters who are in direct communication with me wondered why I went to Belgrade, why Milosevic and Karadzic did not come to the autonomous province of western Bosnia. I believe that people who raise this objection are wrong. This means that Messrs Tudjman and Boban and their aides, as well as Milosevic and Karadzic, should all come to the autonomous province of western Bosnia.

We must be objective. That is an interesting area, and the autonomous province is in fact a framework for my mission of peace and my activities directed toward reaching a lasting peace. However, this involves so many people that it is perfectly correct on my part to go to Zagreb and then to Belgrade.

I also think that when actively participating in the process of establishing lasting peace, we should not pay too much attention to who is visiting whom. The main issue is whether a lasting and just peace is reached. Who visits whom is of least importance. I believe that, when a lasting and just peace is in question, we should all change not only the methods and contents of our work, but also the rhetoric of our statements.

[Correspondent] Were Lord Owen and [Thorvald] Stoltenberg informed about today's declaration and the statement with Mr. Boban? Were they informed about it, and did they approve of it?

[Abdic] Lord Owen and Stoltenberg were not informed about this—let me call it—our joint activity. On one hand, however, we have applied the principles of the Geneva package to all documents, and on the other hand, the very presence of Mr. Tudjman and Mr. Milosevic at our negotiations is interpreted in different ways. We have in fact established the method of the work of the Geneva conference during the drawing up of the Geneva package [sentence as received]. UN Security Council resolutions bind both presidents to participate actively in restoring peace. From that point of view, I believe that objections concerning their presence are out of place. Besides, they [Tudjman and Milosevic] must guarantee that what was signed will be honored.

[Correspondent] Let us move on now to Alija Izetbegovic and the authorities in Sarajevo. The situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina is now as follows: the Croatian nation is represented by Herceg-Bosna and Mr. Mate Boban; the Serbian nation in Bosnia is represented by Karadzic. The Muslim nation is now represented by two men and two, I would call, conflicting policies: Alija Izetbegovic and you, Fikret Abdic. Is this not an aggravating circumstance for the Muslim nation in Bosnia-Herzegovina?

[Abdic] I do not think it is. Actually, I firmly believe that it is not because the autonomous province of western Bosnia has been cut off from the Republic's center since the beginning of the war. By adopting the decision to form the autonomous province of western Bosnia, we only sanctioned the existing situation.

All the time that I was in the Bihac enclave—as I called it before—I sent about 25 reports to the republic presidency, as initiatives to the government via the presidency. Not a single one of my initiatives or letters was answered. When I came out of the Bihac enclave, I requested at a presidency session that the military, economic, and political situation be analyzed, which the presidency approved. Twenty days later Izetbegovic himself established that there were no reports from other areas and that it would not be possible to carry out the analysis. Therefore, all my attempts to involve us more concretely in the process of providing a lasting and stable peace in the autonomous province of western Bosnia failed. The autonomous province—that is, the decision to form it—is, in my opinion, the only constitutional and

legal framework which gives me, on the basis of the constitutional principles we adopted at the constitutional assembly, the possibility of working on restoring peace in the area.

Many people raise objections saying that as a presidency member I should have been active in other parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina too. That is true, but under the assumption there is no war and the autonomous province of western Bosnia is not completely sealed off. However, I see my contribution to other parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina this way: the positive example of the autonomous province of western Bosnia's action should be used in other parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina too. But this is easily ignored.

Concerning the confrontation between me and Mr. Izetbegovic, the crucial problem is that, except for me, nobody in the entire Muslim circle contradicts Izetbegovic. This is why his answer is strange when he is asked whether I collaborate with the enemy. He says: You know how it is. Fikret is the only person from our Muslim ranks who can ensure everything he wants from both Croats and Serbs. All Muslim cadres simply repeat Mr. Izetbegovic's words.

I believe I'd make a huge mistake toward the Muslim nation to always agree with Izetbegovic. Many people think because I won most votes I am obligated to get along with Mr. Izetbegovic better. I think exactly opposite: the votes I won oblige me to have a correct attitude toward citizens who expressed their trust in me, and not toward an individual, or specifically, the first among equals in the Republic's presidency, Alija Izetbegovic. This is why I believe those who think that are wrong. But most of them come from the circle of Alija's infrastructure that takes more care about his image than about the fate of the Muslim nation. In my opinion, this is the crucial problem of the Muslim nation and the state of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[video clip of Sarajevo TV condemning Abdic as a traitor]

[Correspondent] This was a comment from Bosnia-Herzegovina television. Can you comment on it briefly?

[Abdic] I think that there is no need to comment on this. Political criminal, traitor—and no arguments behind it. This shows that this man is one of Mr. Izetbegovic's hirelings along with 10,000 others who form the infrastructure that keeps him in power. I think the Muslim nation will one day understand this plot against them, and they will then give the best comment on him and the thousands of people like him who are not only everywhere in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but also all over Europe and America and Australia.

[video clip from Banja Luka TV on inter-Muslim conflicts in western Bosnia and clashes between Bosnian Serb forces and Bosnian Army]

[Correspondent] This clip, especially the last report from the village of Golubic [near Bihac, where the Bosnian Serb forces routed Izetbegovic's Bosnia-Herzegovina Army] is indicative of fears that have arisen. Namely, will Karadzic's army, the Krajina Corps [of the Bosnian Serb forces] help Abdic's—as it is called—army fight against Izetbegovic's army? Has there been any talk in that sense?

[Abdic] First of all, speaking about the lost area and the declaration we signed today, it is completely irrelevant whether this area [presumably the village of Golubic] was captured or not. According to the declaration we signed, we will obtain the territory 30 km around Bihac, and Golubic is only four km away from Bihac. Therefore, regardless of what the Serb army captures, we will obtain the undisputed area envisaged in Geneva.

A new issue raised today, which is very interesting not only for Bosanska Krupa, but also for the whole of the autonomous province of western Bosnia, is that the declaration includes the point that says a commission for borders will review the issue of the right bank of [the river Una in] Bosanska Krupa. Namely, during all negotiations in Geneva the Serb side refused to consider any discussion about the right side of Bosanska Krupa, or any part of Bosanska Krupa at all. The declarations create conditions for negotiations that might lead to us being given, if not the whole of the right bank [of the Una in Bosanska Krupa], than a large part of it. All this depends, of course, on the work of the borders commission.

Concerning military assistance, first of all I believe we do not need any military assistance from Karadzic because our forces—if we measure military might—are considerably stronger than the 5th Corps thought. The 5th Corps always expected a situation similar to the present one, and they conducted the policy of very meager armament of 521st and 527th brigades, but they did not count on our military might being considerably greater. However, we do not stress this as a factor that will help us achieve the goals of the autonomous province. On the contrary, it is important to mention the military might only to prevent any attempts of blackmailing us by saying that we will be occupied unless we give up the idea of the autonomous province of western Bosnia.

What is at issue here is not I or other people who are vilified by Radio Bihac, but the citizens who signed [the petition] and therefore requested the formation of the autonomous province of western Bosnia. The will of citizens must be respected, and the armed attack by the 5th Corps under Mr. Izetbegovic's orders is in fact an armed attack on civilians, in which four civilians were killed on the first day. The police and army of the autonomous province of western Bosnia intervened to protect their civilians. It is only in this context that we can analyze the situation in the autonomous province of western Bosnia. It is precisely for this reason that Izetbegovic refuses to come with Ganic to the autonomous province of western Bosnia, because he wants to reduce

this problem to a conflict between two armies, or between rebels and the Fifth Corps. This is, on the one hand, an unconstitutional, illegal, and inhuman order. Izetbegovic had no right to issue in his capacity as the first among equals in the presidency; on the other hand, the order was consistently carried out by Ramiz Drekovic [commander of the 5th Corps] who could not and should not have carried it out. This is, therefore, a brutal attack on civilians, and Alija Izetbegovic cannot deny his responsibility for that shameful act.

This is why all the measures being taken after this—for example, numerous arrests of those people in Cazin and Bihac who signed the initiative for the establishment of the autonomous province of western Bosnia and charges brought against them for counterrevolutionary activities, contrary to Articles 114 and Article 139, for which these people were threatened with death sentences [sentence incomplete as heard]. On the other hand, people are fighting and are then released from prison after 10 days on condition they accept the posts offered to them and agree to make statements as requested. You have to have serious reservations about all the information you receive here via Bihac Radio, because the 5th Corps—that is, Alija Izetbegovic via the 5th Corps—to realize his goals first seized Bihac Radio, then Bihac TV, and finally Cazin Radio. They [5th Corps] then tried and failed to seize Velika Kladusa Radio, our policemen prevented this and protected the radio station with their own lives. One policeman was killed, as you know, but Velika Kladusa Radio remained in our hands. Once again, one should have serious reservations about all the information carried by this radio station. It is my duty to thank the Croatian TV, especially Zagreb Radio, and all other media that devoted a great deal of their coverage to events in the autonomous province of western Bosnia and in this way made up for poor coverage, or better still, countered the false information carried by Bihac Radio and TV and by Cazin Radio.

[Correspondent] And one last question: The autonomous province of western Bosnia borders with the Croatian territory that is under the control of so-called Krajina. We also know that a very important railway line links Banja Luka with Knin via Bihac. It is feared that if some unfavorable events take place here in Croatia, in the form of a conflict between rebel Serbs and the Croatian authorities, this railway line may be used as a supply corridor for Krajina Serbs.

[Abdic] The declaration is concerned with the opening of all communications between the autonomous province of western Bosnia and the republic of Srpska. We did not dwell in detail on specific communication facilities, but an emphasis was laid on the urgent opening of the Bihac-Drvar-Bosansko Grahovo-Livno road on the one hand. On the other hand, we had concrete talks about the Velika Kladusa-Karlovac road, and I personally pleaded with Mr. Milosevic to talk to the relevant bodies in Serb Kraljinas so that this road can be opened. Naturally, the fighting would have to stop there before the road could be opened. He agreed to talk with Mr. Tudjman and

therefore the reference made in the first question, that I am wearing two hats, does not stand. I cannot work in any other way but to balance the Serbian and Croatian sides to ensure the opening of all roads, including the Karlovac-Velika Kladusa one. Mr. Milosevic agreed to get involved in this and, furthermore, to get involved in the halting of all fighting, as this should precede the opening of the above road. I had further talks with Mr. Tudjman this evening, and he also agreed to get involved in the matter.

It is not just a question of the free flow of commodities, people, and capital; it is far more important to resolve one controversial question at a time. What is most important for the territory of the autonomous province of western Bosnia and also for the Croatian and Serbian sides is that in this way conditions will be created for 40,000 people, who have not been able to return to their homes for the second consecutive year and are working in Austria, Germany, Switzerland, throughout Europe, to return to their homes. I think that both sides, Mr. Tudjman and Mr. Milosevic, showed great interest in this, and I am convinced that, first of all, we will find a solution regarding this road. By tomorrow or the day after I will have talked to Mr. Milosevic over the telephone and insist on a Tudjman-Milosevic meeting as soon as possible to ensure that this road is opened, living conditions for citizens of the autonomous province of western Bosnia are improved, and life made easier for people in this entire area and in all other areas bordering the autonomous province of western Bosnia.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Mr. Abdic.

[Abdic] Thank you.

Sarajevo Radio Comments

*AU 2210185693 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia Herzegovina
Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 22 Oct 93*

[Text] After he held talks and reached an agreement with Mate Boban [leader of Herzegovina Croats] in Zagreb yesterday, Fikret Abdic visited Belgrade today, where he met with Slobodan Milosevic and war criminal Radovan Karadzic. On that occasion, they adopted a declaration in which Abdic and Karadzic state that they are concluding peace and announce the beginning of the development of goodneighborly relations and comprehensive cooperation in the fields of politics, economy, transportation, and so forth. This was reported by the media of the aggressor Republic of Serbia, which attaches exceptional importance to this.

What could be said at this moment, except that secessionist Fikret Abdic has once again shown that the betrayal of this country and its peoples is the only real continuity in his work. It is also certain that time—not in the distant future, but the days ahead—will show how correct this is.

Border Crossing Established

AU2410153493 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] The government of the republic of Srpska—within the 48 hour deadline agreed upon—has established a border crossing with the autonomous province of western Bosnia in the village of Otoka on the Una River. Citizens crossing over into the territory of the republic of Srpska need only their identity cards issued by the autonomous province of western Bosnia.

Silajdzic: Croatia Interfering in Internal Affairs

LD2310080093 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0700 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Bosnia-Herzegovina Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic has sent a letter to Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic. The letter reads:

At a time when we are investing all our efforts into implementation of the joint declaration, we are stunned by the report on the meeting between Mate Boban and Fikret Abdic in Zagreb and their (?discussion) of political and military issues which fall under the competence of the state civilian and military authorities of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. We consider that act as interference into Bosnia-Herzegovina's internal affairs, which is in contravention of obligations arising from the international recognition of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. Such actions hamper the efforts directed toward building mutual trust, ending the clashes, and restoring peace in this region.

This is said at the end of Haris Silajdzic's letter to Mate Granic.

Abdic Responds to Silajdzic

LD2410153993 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Fikret Abdic, president of the autonomous province of western Bosnia, issued a public statement today in reply to a recent protest note sent to Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic by Haris Silajdzic, foreign minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in which the latter accuses the Republic of Croatia of interfering with the internal affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Abdic's statement says that the negotiations held in Zagreb on 21 October between himself and [Bosnian Croat leader] Mate Boban were not only legal but also legitimate. The leaderships of both the Croat republic of Herceg-Bosna and the autonomous province of western Bosnia were chosen by the expression of the will of the Croatian and Muslim people respectively and recognized by the Geneva peace plan, which defined the union of the republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina, he asserts.

Abdic considers the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina with its current members to be unconstitutional and describes the latest personnel changes in it as violent. He

says the new presidency members were appointed without the consent of the electorate, who are the only ones entitled to relieve the existing presidency members of their duties or choose the new members.

As the latest piece of evidence pointing at the wilfulness of Izetbegovic's regime, Abdic brings up the fact that the units of the 5th Corps of Izetbegovic's army, having committed crimes against the civilian population, have also jammed the reception of all media in Bihac and Cazin. In that area, therefore, it is possible to receive only the programs of the controlled Sarajevo state radio, Fikret Abdic's statement says.

Casualties Reported in Western Bosnia

LD2310130193 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1200 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Following several quiet days in western Bosnia, there were fresh civilian victims in the village of Johovica last night, ZBIA [Western Bosnia News Agency] reports. Two civilians were killed when units of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army attempted a breakthrough towards Velika Kladusa and suffered a huge defeat. In retaliation, Ramiz Drekovac's military police shot dead two civilians while retreating.

It is quiet today, ZBIA reports.

Karadzic Urges Meeting With Izetbegovic

LD2410173893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1551 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Bonn, 24 Oct (TANJUG)—Commenting on the peace declaration signed with the autonomous province of western Bosnia, republic of Srpska president Radovan Karadzic said that it is a step toward peace and he hopes that Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic will shortly join the peace negotiations with the Serbs.

In an interview for tomorrow's edition of VESTI, a Serbian daily published in Frankfurt, Karadzic said: "President Milosevic talked to Izetbegovic several days ago and Izetbegovic has undertaken in principle to meet me somewhere so that we can jointly try to find a solution."

Commenting on the Abdic-Izetbegovic conflict and clashes between Croats and Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Karadzic added that peace has been agreed with Abdic and his supporters and that the Serbs will not take advantage of those clashes. "Serbs are a valiant people and they have been offering aid to the enemy whenever he is in trouble," Karadzic said.

Serbs Launch Heavy Attack on Sarajevo

AU2310195493 Paris AFP in English 1941 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Sarajevo, Oct 23 (AFP)—At least five people died and 37 others were wounded Saturday [23 October] when Bosnian Serbs launched a heavy attack on the city of Sarajevo, hospitals said.

According to Bill Aikman, spokesman for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), Serb artillery launched some 830 shells onto the Bosnian capital between 7:30 a.m. (0830 GMT) and 4:30 p.m. Bosnians responded by firing "some shots."

"We cannot say who started the battle," Aikman said, adding that unlike last weekend, the Bosnian Army had not attempted reprisals.

The focus of the attack was the strategic Zuc hill which overlooks the city and is still in Bosnian hands. The area around the Vogosca industrial zone was also targeted as was the southeast of the city including parts of the old quarter.

Shells landed close to the UN's observation post south of Colina Kapa, in southeast Sarajevo.

According to Aikman, fighting between Moslems and Bosnian Croats persisted Saturday on the outskirts of Vares, a Croat pocket north of Sarajevo.

Defense Ministry Protests

LD2310194493 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] The Defense Ministry of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina today lodged a sharp protest with UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] Generals Briquemont and Xuereb following the aggressor's latest criminal activities that were totally unprovoked on the part of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army. According to reports compiled by the Defense Ministry, a heavy artillery attack on Sarajevo has been raging since early this morning. By 1200 today several hundred shells had fallen on Bosnia-Herzegovina's capital, inflicting a great deal of material damage.

So far two civilians have been killed. Over 500 shells have landed on the Vis, Zuc, and Ugorsko areas, while about 150 have fallen on the Hrastovi area, and 50 on the Jarcedol and Soukbunar area. Artillery shells have also been raining on the Otoka, Broadcasting House, and Mojmiro areas, it is said in the Defense Ministry's protest note.

It demands of Generals Briquemont and Xuereb that they take all necessary measures to put an end to the attack on the protected zone of Sarajevo and to prevent further attacks from taking place. Under the UN Security Council's resolution, Sarajevo is declared a protected zone in which such activities on the part of the aggressor are banned. This is why we demand you inform the UN Security Council about this attack so it can take an adequate decision regarding Sarajevo's protection, it is stated at the end of the Defense Ministry's protest note addressed to UNPROFOR.

UN Forces Pessimistic About Power Restoration

AU2210151493 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Excerpts] According to the information service of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Power Engineering Industry, Sarajevo is still receiving minimum amounts of electricity. A short power outage this afternoon was caused by overloading on the low voltage lines in the town. The problem has in the meantime been resolved and electricity was again restored in the town about 1415.

As we have learned from the city water authorities, Sarajevo is still without water. The main Bacevo well is out of order because of power cuts. [passage omitted]

At today's news conference, UNPROFOR's spokesman William Aikman said that the Jablanica-Kakanj long distance power line will not be repaired for several days. This power line was damaged near Kiseljak on the very line separating the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Croatian Defense Council. The Canadian UN battalion and a team of engineers tried to reach the site of the damage, but they were prevented from doing so by a local commander of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina. This is the usual story: The United Nations reaches agreements on some action and obtains approval from all sides at the highest level, and then the actions are hindered by local commanders, Aikman said. [passage omitted]

Serbian, Muslim Delegations Meet in Sarajevo

LD2210161993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1439 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Lukavica, 22 Oct (TANJUG)—Negotiations between high-level state delegations of the republic of Srpska and Muslim Bosnia are under way at Sarajevo airport.

The Serbian negotiating side is headed by Momcilo Krajisnik, the president of the people's assembly, and also includes Health Minister Dragan Kalinic, Ljubisa Vazdusic, head of the commission for refugees, and Dragan Bulajic, head of the state commission for the exchange of prisoners. The Muslim delegation is headed by Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic.

Although the talks are being conducted behind closed doors, it has been learned from reliable sources that the agenda includes a discussion on the possibilities for a prisoner exchange according to the "all for all" principle—which had been agreed during the previous meeting between Krajisnik and Silajdzic last week but was never implemented due to technical problems.

It has also been learned that the delegations are discussing a whole series of humanitarian issues to surmount the accumulated mutual mistrust.

It has been assessed that frequent and continual contacts between such high-level delegations are opening a new stage in the bilateral contacts between the Serbian and Muslim sides.

Krajisnik 'Not Satisfied'

LD2210174393 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1619 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Lukavica, 22 Oct (TANJUG)—“We are not satisfied with the results of today’s meeting with the Muslim side because we expected, after having removed all the obstacles in the way of the exchange of prisoners, that this problem would finally be resolved today,” declared Momcilo Krajisnik, the chairman of the assembly of the republic of Srpska, after his meeting with Muslim Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic.

“I cannot say that there has been a lack of goodwill, but they have so many technical problems and so many local warlords obstructing the exchange process,” Krajisnik said. He added, however, that the negotiating process on the exchange of prisoners had not been suspended, but that agreement was reached to meet as soon as possible to finally realize the exchange according to the all-for-all principle.

“Our side has done everything it was asked to: we let the convoys for Maglaj and Tesanj through, we ordered all our prison authorities to allow free access to the representatives of the International Red Cross, and we showed readiness to enable the civilian population of the municipalities of Hadzici and Ilidza to cross freely into Muslim-controlled territory. We are, therefore, doing all we can to reestablish trust—providing all combat operations cease—and to enable the free movement of civilians as soon as possible,” Krajisnik said.

Serb Army Says Muslims Using Toxic Weapons

LD2210135493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1201 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Zvornik, 22 Oct (TANJUG)—Muslim artillery units resumed their shelling of the territory of the republic of Srpska some 15 km northeast of Zvornik shortly before 1200 today.

TANJUG’s correspondent was told by the command of the Zvornik garrison of the army of the republic of Srpska that Muslim forces used shells containing toxic materials in today’s attacks, as well as those of yesterday.

Serbian military sources have said that, because of yesterday’s Muslim attack, which lasted several hours, and the use of prohibited toxic weapons, a UN military observer commission arrived in Zvornik today. The UN commission has been assigned to carry out an on-the-spot investigation and collect all the necessary samples.

Several dozen mortar shells of different calibers were fired from Muslim strongholds in Vitinica, Kovacevici,

Nezuk, and the hamlet of Zaseok between 0900 and 1500 yesterday. Today’s attacks came from the same directions.

According to Major Vinko Pandurevic, the commander of the Zvornik garrison of the army of the republic of Srpska, more than 60 shells were fired in the course of yesterday’s attack—at least one third of them containing toxic substances based on chlorine. [passage omitted]

TANJUG: Muslims Admit Use

LD2310072693 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0339 GMT 23 Oct 93

[“Pool” item]

[Text] New York Oct 22 (TANJUG)—Bosnian Moslems have admitted that they are using chemical weapons in the war in the former Yugoslav republic, the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the former Yugoslavia has said in a report submitted to the Security Council president.

The report, dated October 20, said the commander of the Tuzla-based 216th Brigade admitted that Bosnian Moslem forces had been using chemical weapons against Bosnian Serbs in order to “prove the capability of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army.”

Joe Sills, spokesman for the U.N. secretary-general, said he had heard about the report but knew no details.

On Thursday, the Bosnian Serb Army Command in Zvornik accused Moslem forces of using mortar shells filled with chlorine in their attacks on Bosnian Serbs positions around the town.

The command said that U.N. military observers had inspected the area and seen for themselves that the Serb allegations were true.

Bosnian Croats have also warned that Moslem forces are using war gases.

HVO Warns Muslims Preparing Offensive

LD2410153493 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Zdenko Vranjes reporting from Mostar for Croatian Radio:

HVO [Croat Defense Council] units this morning repelled a Muslim army infantry attack in the area of Buna, south of Mostar. Mostar is now relatively quiet after this morning’s fighting.

The HVO general staff said in today’s statement that HVO forces—after repelling Muslim forces’ attacks on the Uskoplje-Rama front—took control of the Brenovac, Oglavci, and Celjine areas in a counterattack. One HVO member was killed and one wounded in these battles while the Muslim army suffered considerable losses. The general staff warned that the Muslim army was preparing

a fresh offensive in the Vitez, Novi Travnik, and Busovaca areas, as well as on the Mostar front. [passage omitted]

'Massacre' in Stupni Dol by Croats Reported

LD2410133093 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The extremists from Vares and [word indistinct] fighters who fled to Vares following the defeat of their formations in Kakanj yesterday, launched a combined attack on the defenseless Bosnian village of Stupni Dol. The village had been under siege for several months. A report on this matter, which we received this morning from the press service of the wartime presidency of the municipal assembly and the Army of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina in Vares includes the following: [passage omitted] This is the work of the extremist fighters of the Vares and Kakanj Croatian Defense Council [HVO] who yesterday attacked the village with all their artillery pieces and then stormed it, systematically setting fire to its houses and killing its civilian population. Fifty houses were set ablaze. Several dozen innocent Muslim civilians were herded into one of the houses.

It took the vastly superior enemy only several hours to crush the superhuman resistance put up by some 40 armed villagers. Stupni Dol had been surrounded by the Vares HVO since the beginning of the war. Everyone thought that such a terrible massacre of Muslims would be impossible since in the past there were no cases of [word indistinct] or ethnic intolerance of any kind in this area. [passage omitted]

The number of dead has not yet been established as the houses are still burning as I file this report. There are justified fears that this could be a large number as even little children, the elderly, and the disabled were massacred too. Most victims were killed in their burning houses while those who avoided death in the first Ustasha assault have been taken away to an unknown destination, the wartime presidency of the municipal assembly and the Army of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina in Vares say, among other things, in their report.

HVO Claims Attack Shows British Not Neutral

LD2210194093 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Report by Zdenko Vranjes from Medjugorje]

[Excerpt] A tank belonging to the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] was recently destroyed near Gornji Vakuf by a Milan-2 missile—a weapon hitherto unused by any of the sides in the Bosnia-Herzegovina conflict. Several days before this incident, these missiles had been registered in the possession of UNPROFOR's [UN Protection Forces] British forces when they were passing through an HVO-controlled checkpoint.

These and other facts were presented at a news conference in Medjugorje today by General Slobodan Praljak, the HVO's chief of the general staff, as indications that UNPROFOR's British battalion operating in central Bosnia and the Uskoplje valley has not adopted a neutral stance. Praljak also denied allegations on the existence of a mass grave in Tasovcici near Capljina. [passage omitted]

Dutch Peacekeepers Reportedly Robbed by Muslims

LD2210222193 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2150 GMT 22 Oct 93

[“Pool” item]

[Text] Belgrade, Oct 22 (TANJUG)—Five Dutch U.N. peacekeepers were ambushed and robbed, apparently by Moslem forces, near the central Bosnian town of Gornji Vakuf on Friday [22 October].

They were robbed of their vehicles, weapons, radios and personal belongings, REUTERS quoted a U.N. source in Vitez as saying.

The five soldiers, who travelled in two Mercedes jeeps on the Vitez-Gornji Vakuf road, were stopped by “Bosnian soldiers or individuals wearing Bosnian Army uniforms,” the source said.

They had to walk back to Vitez after being forced out of the jeeps.

Vitez has been the scene of fighting between Croats and Moslems, erstwhile allies against local Serbs in Bosnia's 18-month-old civil war.

Demands for Autonomy in Tuzla, Gradacac, Gracanica

LD2310181493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1749 GMT 23 Oct 93

[“Pool” item]

[Text] Banja Luka, Oct 23 (TANJUG)—Moslems in the region around the Moslem-controlled towns of Tuzla, Gradacac and Gracanica, in the north-east of Bosnia-Herzegovina, have voiced extremely firm demands for autonomy, similar to that already proclaimed in the west of the war-ravaged former Yugoslav republic.

As Fadil Hanic, a member of the Moslem Commission for Exchange of Civilians in Gradacac, said on Saturday, the entire Tuzla region has in fact been pervaded with a strong wave of resistance to the fundamentalist policy of Bosnian Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic.

According to Hanic, the demanded autonomy would provide for political and economic reliance of the Tuzla region on the Serb Republic, the state of Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. “The only problem is that a leader like Abdic has not yet appeared in the Tuzla region,” he said.

In western Bosnia-Herzegovina, which has been ravaged for 18 months by a civil war between the local Serbs, Croats and Moslems, the followers of liberal Moslem politician Fikret Abdic proclaimed late in September the autonomous province of western Bosnia. Earlier this week, Abdic signed declarations on peace and cooperation with Bosnian Serbs and Croats.

Bosnian Moslem leader Izetbegovic has been refusing for months to sign similar agreements.

Hanic claims that a complete media blockade reigns in Tuzla and vicinity. According to him, the "residents of Tuzla obtain information by way of Radio-TV of Serbia and Radio-TV of the Serb Republic alone, while linked with the Moslem authorities in Sarajevo only by a military telephone line."

Hanic illustrated the isolation from Sarajevo by the fact that for almost a year's time no member from the Moslem government has visited Tuzla.

Valentic Postpones Visit to Slovenia

LD2210174593 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1650
GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Minister Nikica Valentic has unexpectedly postponed a visit to neighbouring Slovenia scheduled to start on Friday [22 October].

The postponement comes at the time of sharp deterioration of Slovenia-Croatia relations after the settlement of 1,400 Croat refugees from war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina in the holiday homes owned by Slovenian companies in the Istria peninsula on the Croatian Adriatic coast.

The Slovenian Foreign Ministry said that Valentic's visit had been postponed because the texts of inter-governmental agreements, which were supposed to have been signed six months ago, had not been prepared.

Croatia and Slovenia violently seceded from the former Yugoslav Federation in the second half of 1991.

Official Apologizes to Slovenia Over Refugee Issue

LD2210224793 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] The accommodation of refugees from central Bosnia in Croatia was discussed at a news conference held today in the Croatian Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees.

The need to find shelter for 1,700 refugees from central Bosnia arose overnight. Croatia has no available facilities, and the people could not have been left in the streets. Adalbert Rebic, head of the office for refugees, said. We are expecting another 3,000 or 4,000 people from central Bosnia in next few days because the Croat republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which already cares for 60,000 refugees, cannot cope with any more people.

The accommodation of refugees in tourist complexes owned by neighboring Slovene companies is temporary, Rebic said.

[Begin Rebic recording] I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to the Slovene Government because of this lack of coordination that occurred. I repeat, because of the fateful, unexpected, and sudden arrival of refugees from central Bosnia to Croatia. I would like to stress once more that the accommodation of those refugees from central Bosnia in Novigrad and its surroundings is only temporary. When we build new settlements or refurbish some facilities, we will transfer all refugees from those holiday facilities and pay indemnities for all possible damage. [end recording]

Everyone must realize that Croatia shoulders the greatest burden of the refugee crisis and of the war imposed upon it. Croatia currently accommodates 526,000 displaced persons and refugees. No other country in the world has such a large number of refugees in ratio to its population.

Croatia is therefore turning into a big refugee center. This is also a big financial burden. Rebic stresses, and the world's assistance is insufficient.

[Begin Rebic recording] The assistance Croatia receives for the care for refugees and displaced persons is currently around 7 percent. The situation has improved slightly, but 93 percent of the expenses for the accommodation of refugees is paid by Croatia. [end recording]

Rebic today also spoke about the German Government's decisions whereby the refugees from Croatia had their refugee status extended until the end of April 1994. We can therefore expect further 50,000 to 60,000 Croatian refugees next year, and just as many Croatian refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina who have dual—therefore also Croatian—citizenship. How can we take in all those people? There is no answer at the moment, which means that we have to count on the solidarity of neighboring countries.

RSK Agrees To Negotiate With Army

LD2410142293 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1338
GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Belgrade, Oct 24 (TANJUG)—Military leaders of the republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) have agreed to negotiate an end of hostilities with the Croatian Army through the mediation of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) for former Yugoslavia. It was announced at the UNPROFOR headquarters in Zagreb on Sunday [24 October].

As reported by the French news agency AFP, an agreement to that effect was reached during talks between UNPROFOR Commander General Jean Cot and RSK Defence Minister Admiral Dusan Rakic and RSK Army Commander General Mile Novakovic in Topusko on Saturday.

The RSK was proclaimed in late 1991 in areas within the administrative borders of Croatia where Serbs make up the majority population. The move came in response to Croatia's violent secession from the former Yugoslav Federation. After clashes between Krajina Serbs and Croats, who attempted to re-establish Croatian sovereignty in those areas, the RSK territory was proclaimed a U.N. Protected Area (UNPA) in the spring of 1992. This, however, did not deter Croatia from launching three offensives on UNPA territories, killing hundreds of Serb civilians.

The RSK has agreed that the two confronted sides and UNPROFOR set up a joint military commission, as provided under U.N. Security Council Resolution 871, said the AFP. The resolution extended UNPROFOR's mandate in UNPA zones until March next year.

General Cot noted that the Serb and Croat sides had 'demonstrated good will and readiness to cooperate.' The RSK new agency ISKRA reported that the main issue discussed by General Cot, General Novakovic and

Admiral Rakic had been 'military aspects of the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 871.'

The two sides 'reached a high level of agreement on the need to step up the search for peace and the resumption of ceasefire negotiations, as well as on some other practical steps aimed at the demarcation between the RSK and Croatian armies in areas where there are no disputes,' the news agency reported.

It quoted statements by Generals Cot and Novakovic in which they expressed satisfaction at the talks and their closeness of stands.

The UNPROFOR commander described the talks as a 'significant step in preparations for an agreement on truce between the RSK and Croatian armies.'

RSK Officials Meet UNPROFOR Commander

LD2310204193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2001 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Vojnic, 23 Oct (TANJUG)—At UNPROFOR's [UN Protection Forces] request, General Mile Novakovic, the commander of the Serb Krajina army, and RSK [republic of Serb Krajina] defense minister Admiral Dusan Rakic, held a meeting in Vojnic today with the UNPROFOR Commander General Jean Cot, and his assistants, General Pellnaes, the commander of UN military observers, and General Isberg, the commander of UNPROFOR's Sector Northeast.

According to ISKRA [RSK news agency] military aspects of the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 871 were discussed. [passage omitted]

RSK Claims Croatia Has Scud Missiles

LD2410150493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1417 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Report by Miodrag Dinic]

[Text] Belgrade, Oct 24 (TANJUG)—Croatia possesses ground-to-ground scud missiles which may be used against targets in the republic of Serb Krajina (R.S.K.), in which case the R.S.K. Army could respond by launching missile attacks on Croatian towns.

If Croatian President Franjo Tudjman decides to launch a large-scale offensive on the R.S.K., the R.S.K. Army will respond with missile attacks on Croatian towns, primarily on strategic targets, said a senior R.S.K. Army officer who asked not to be identified.

According to estimates by foreign and Yugoslav military experts, the Croatian forces have a smaller number of mobile rocket launchers and about 20 scud missiles with a range of up to 280 kilometres, experts believe that it would be realistic to expect the Croatian forces to direct those missiles on the RSK centre of Knin.

Scud missiles have arrived in Croatia from Soviet arsenals in former East Germany.

The Croats have installed several scud missiles in Spacvanske Sume close to the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a retired Yugoslav Army officer has said.

In addition to scud missiles, the Croatian forces also possess multiple rocket launchers Oganj and Orkan, left from the former Yugoslav Army arsenal. Oganj has a range of about 20 and Orkan about 60 kilometres.

The R.S.K. Army is armed with various ground-to-ground rockets, including Oganj and Orkan launchers and 70-km-range luna rockets. There are also indications that it has missiles with a range of between 120 and 900 kilometres.

The R.S.K. was proclaimed in late 1991 by the Serbs in the territories of Croatia where they are the majority population, in reponse to Croatia's violent secession from the former Yugoslav Federation and the downgrading of their status from that of a constituent people to that of an ethnic minority.

Although the R.S.K. was proclaimed a U.N. protected area (UNPA) in the spring of 1992, it has not prevented Croatia from launching three aggressions on UNPA zones in the R.S.K.

The U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) commander for the former Yugoslavia, General Jean Cot has initiated talks between the two sides to the conflict and this fact might influence Zagreb to give up offensive operations and try to achieve a global truce with the R.S.K. through political negotiations.

Hadzic: Recognition of RSK Only Matter of Time

LD2410175693 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1341 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Kragujevac, 24 Oct (TANJUG)—Goran Hadzic, the president of the republic of Serb Krajina (RSK), told Kragujevac Radio today that "all disagreements in the state and military leadership, which worried the citizens and threatened the security of the RSK, have been overcome."

Taking part in "Pecat Vremena" [Sign of the Time] program, Hadzic also spoke about the RSK leadership meeting, that had been held behind closed doors. He said that the central issue "on which full consensus was reached by all participants at the meeting, is the postponing of the elections to 19 December, instead of the previously announced date of 21 November."

To a reporter's remark that an election date cannot be changed, Hadzic replied: "A final decision on this will be made by the people's deputies at a meeting scheduled to take place in Plitvice on Thursday [28 October]. It is clear, however, that objective conditions do not exist that would enable the elections to take place on 21 November."

The question that arises now is how the soldiers on the front line, under barrages of bullets, will vote. During the talks behind closed doors we agreed that the defense of Krajina is a priority issue, but also that the elections are an extremely important political question. Hadzic said, "However, what good will the elections do if our defense fails and Krajina is conquered."

Asked about the current situation in the fringe areas of the RSK, and the increasingly frequent threats by the Croatian side that "they will regain their territory [currently] occupied by the Serb rebels," Hadzic said: "The borders of our republic are stable. Regardless of the daily provocations and threats by the Croatian side their Army stands no chance of raiding our territory again and committing crimes, as they did in Divoselo and other villages. We have brought fresh forces from other parts of our republic, and this has restored and raised morale among the population and the soldiers who had stayed there."

Regarding the remark that the numerous letters that have been sent to the United Nations and other international institutions have produced no effect, Hadzic said: "Although the world, and primarily Germany, do not want to admit it—it is clear to everyone that the state of RSK is a reality, and that this is the way it is going to be. There is no return [to any other position]. It is only a question of days, months, or years when the world will recognize and acknowledge this reality."

We shall base all our future international talks on the platform adopted by our assembly, which is founded upon the principle of Krajina as a state."

Envoy to UN: Serbs Not Opposed to Resolutions

LD2310125393 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1059
GMT 23 Oct 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] New York, Oct 22 (TANJUG)—The Republic of Serb Krajina (R.S.K.) does not oppose the implementation of the U.N. Security Council's resolutions relating to the conflict between that republic, proclaimed within the borders of the breakaway Yugoslav Republic of Croatia, and the present Croatian authorities, says Yugoslav Ambassador to the United Nations Dragomir Djokic in a letter sent to U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on Friday [22 October].

However, the R.S.K. cannot accept those parts of the resolutions which prejudice a political solution to Krajina's status, Djokic adds in the letter.

He says that to prejudge a political solution runs contrary to the peace plan for the region devised by U.N. mediator Cyrus Vance, which is aimed primarily at protecting Krajina's civilian population until a solution should be found through talks between the parties to the conflict.

The R.S.K. was proclaimed in 1991 by the local Serbs in those parts within the arbitrary communist-era borders of Croatia where they are the majority population, in response to Croatia's violent secession from Yugoslavia. The territory was placed under U.N. protection in the spring of 1992 following conflicts with the authorities in Zagreb which still consider Krajina to be part of Croatian territory.

Djokic's letter communicates the Yugoslav Government's positions on the issue and stresses that Krajina Serbs are not rebels, and that Croatia has in fact been mercilessly attacking the U.N.-protected R.S.K. since the moment the Vance plan was signed. More than 300 Serb civilians have been killed in the attacks, Djokic says.

Croatia has gone so far as to attack even the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR), he says.

Croatia and not the R.S.K. has been resisting the implementation of the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions and the Vance plan, the letter says.

Djokic informs Butrus-Ghali that Croatia is concentrating troops along the border with Krajina and says that it can hardly be expected of the Serbs in the U.N. Protected Areas (UNPA's) to disarm completely for as long as Croatia continues its armed incursions and openly threatens to solve the problem by military means.

The letter quotes Yugoslavia's position that Croatia must discontinue its armed assaults on the UNPA's and realise that just and lasting peace is possible only through direct talks between representatives of Croatia and Serb Krajina.

UN Envoy Calls For Investigation of Missing Persons

LD2310133593 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1240
GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] New York, October 23 (TANJUG)—Croatian Ambassador to the United Nations Mario Nobilo has demanded from U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali that a special international body be set up to investigate the fate of all persons missing in the war in the territory of that former Yugoslav republic.

"More than 10,000 Croatian civilians and fighters were missing after the occupation of some parts of the Croatian territory by Serb irregular and paramilitary forces assisted by the former Yugoslav People's Army (JNA)," Nobilo said in a letter sent on Friday [22 October].

Croatia describes as an "occupied territory" the republic of Serb Krajina (RSK), a state proclaimed by Serbs in areas within the Croatian administrative borders where they make up the majority population. The proclamation came after Croatia violently seceded from the former Yugoslav Federation and downgraded the status of the Serbs to that of an ethnic minority.

In summer 1991, the Croatian authorities began a violent secession from the former Yugoslav Federation and clashed with local Serbs and the JNA.

After the war for secession, in which the Croatian Army killed around 14,000 Serb civilians, the RSK territory was placed under the United Nations protection in March 1992.

Nobilo demands that mass graves "which are believed to exist in the Croatian territory"—especially those in Vukovar, Erdut, Dalj and Pakrac in the eastern and central parts of the RSK—be opened with the help of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Nobilo in this way suggests in advance that these towns hide mass graves of Croats although investigation is yet to begin.

The newly-appointed president of the U.N. War Crime Commission, Sharif Basyuni [name as received] on Thursday told TANJUG in Geneva that the exhumation of the bodies buried in two mass graves in the U.N.

Protected Area (UNPA)—Ovcara near Vukovar in UNPA sector east and an unidentified location in sector west—would begin soon.

Basyuni said he could not specify the location in sector west because the territory was under the Croatian control.

However, that mass grave is believed to contain the bodies of Serb civilians and fighters.

Vukovar, where Serbs had accounted for more than half of the population, was the scene of one of the worst battles between Croatian forces and RSK fighters and the JNA.

Experts at the military hospital in Belgrade have discovered in the area of Vukovar several mass graves and forensic reports on some of the bodies show that they were Serb civilians massacred by Croatian forces.

Although the exhumation at Ovcara is yet to begin, the Zagreb authorities had claimed immediately after the loss of Vukovar in winter 1991 that it contained the bodies of Croatian soldiers who had allegedly been killed after being taken prisoners.

Meeting With Croatian Prime Minister Canceled

AU2210121893 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 0600 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The STA news agency reported last night that the announced meeting of the Slovene and Croatian Prime Ministers Janez Drnovsek and Nikica Valentic, scheduled for this weekend, will not be held. [passage omitted]

Peterle Protests Over Settlement of Refugees

AU2210121993 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 0600 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Slovene Foreign Minister Lojze Peterle stated last night that the Slovene Government would file a sharp protest with the Croatian authorities because they have, without the consent of the owners, started settling refugees in the Slovene holiday homes near Novi Grad. Minister Peterle also expressed doubt that the refugees will really stay in the Slovene holiday homes for no longer than three months.

The Croatian authorities have already settled more than 1,000 refugees from central Bosnia-Herzegovina in the Slovene holiday homes in western Istria.

Foreign Ministry Protests

AU2210155293 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1430 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] The Slovene Foreign Ministry this morning sent a protest note to the Croatian Foreign Ministry regarding the accommodation of refugees in the holiday resorts of Pineta and Mareda near Novi Grad without the prior consent of holiday home owners.

The Slovene side points out that this action has provoked resentment and concern among the owners, the state authorities, and the Slovene public. Such a decision is contrary to the principles of international law and the agreed practice among states, and presents the Republic of Slovenia with a fait accompli.

The Slovene Foreign Ministry stresses that our country has always been willing to help resolving refugee-related problems, as it has proved by accepting a great number of refugees itself.

Federal

Prime Minister, Red Cross Appeal for Help

LD2210220793 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2044
GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Belgrade, Oct 22 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Prime Minister Radoje Kontic and the Yugoslav Red Cross on Friday [22 October] appealed to the international community to provide more help for over 700,000 refugees in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (F.R.Y.).

The Yugoslav Red Cross criticized the U.N. sanctions committee for hampering humanitarian aid deliveries on many occasions, the Yugoslav Information Ministry said.

It said that 95 percent of refugees who have fled the war-stricken areas of the former Yugoslavia to the F.R.Y. had been accommodated with families whose position was deteriorating under the U.N. sanctions.

The Red Cross said it would inform about this the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, at its general assembly session between November 25-30 in which the Yugoslav Red Cross will participate as its full member.

Humanitarian issues were on Friday discussed also between Serbian Commissioner for Refugees Dobrica Vulovic and Tony Frisch who heads the Swiss disaster relief unit, Regin Escher from the Swiss Embassy in Belgrade and Anna-Marie Talmann from a Swiss humanitarian corporation.

Vulovic pointed out the 'problems in securing heating fuel, medicine, medical supplies and spare parts for medical equipments,' the Serbian Information Ministry said.

Jovanovic Conditions for Participating in Talks

AU2510105693 Belgrade RTB Television Network in
Serbo-Croatian 2045 GMT 24 Oct 93

[From the "Aktuelnosti" program: Interview with Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic by Ratko Dmitrovic, on 22 October; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Dmitrovic] Mr. Jovanovic, are you surprised, are our diplomats surprised with the announcement of some kind of global solutions, with the return to the beginning in settling the Yugoslav crisis?

[Jovanovic] No, we are not, because we have been dealing with so-called global offers from the outset of settling the crisis. Up to now these offers have been generating failures, because they have taken a partial, one-sided, and I would even say unprincipled approach toward the Yugoslav crisis from the very beginning, since the time the European Community started meddling in it.

In this case, we are talking about an elaborated version of a proposal that has been coming from an important European country for three or four months, parallel to the Geneva process. The desire to put things back on a global footing probably reflects some sort of desire, perhaps not to hinder, but at least to slow down the arrival of peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina, a peace that was guaranteed by the Geneva process.

Finally, we had peace slapped in the face, the arrival of peace being hindered, and when this happened, the initiative for a global settlement of the crisis rapidly appeared on the scene. [sentence as heard] We have nothing against any method of settling the crisis in principle, provided that it leads to a just and lasting settlement of all aspects of the Yugoslav crisis. When I say just I am also referring to the reexamination of the current approach of the international community to the settlement of the Yugoslav crisis, the approach that has suffered from partiality, unbalanced attitudes, bias, and perhaps even some ulterior motives by certain members of that community.

Of course, this assumes that, if we were to participate in international conferences, we would have to be given full guarantees that Yugoslavia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, is going to be treated as an absolutely equal participant. The sanctions are not securing even the minimum of these conditions. Participation would have to be conditional on the prior lifting of the sanctions so that Yugoslavia could be completely protected from other countries' attempts to treat it as a country with a lower status or with lesser political weight and importance.

However, irrespective of all these considerations, what is more important is that the path to peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina is open and that there is a shortcut to this peace. It is not necessary to look for indirect paths to this. A global solution or a conference of a new type, of, say, the London conference type, would assume a long period of preparations, organization, convening, and the implementation of possible decisions. Therefore, the events that took place today, the conclusion of peace between the republic of Srpska and the autonomous province of western Bosnia, is yet another illustration that—despite all the attempts to slow it down, postpone it, or even place a question mark over it—peace in Bosnia is within reach.

[Dmitrovic] Do you suppose that the Karadzic-Abdic agreement is in collision with the new approaches?

[Jovanovic] On the contrary. Are you referring to globalization?

[Dmitrovic] Yes, yes, globalization.

[Jovanovic] No, it should not be in collision with this because the global approach also stresses, at least in its name, that it is motivated with the desire to find a peaceful solution to the problem as a whole.

[Dmitrovic] I meant from the point of view of the people who are again trying to go back to the beginning?

[Jovanovic] From the point of view of the speed of establishing peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina, today's event has absolute priority. It illustrates that not only is peace within arm's reach, but also that it is feasible, that it has begun to be realized, not only with the absence of war but also with today's conclusion of peace in a significant part of the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina. What is important for the world community is to rid itself of the war nightmare and to rid itself of the nightmare of costs incurred through this war.

The peace that was concluded today is offering a fairly reasonable opportunity to the world community to achieve both aims virtually with one move. Peace can therefore be achieved immediately. There is no need to prolong the war, nor to wait for winter. It is not necessary for the international community to spend enormous amounts of money on humanitarian and other aid because the war is continuing, nor is it necessary, in principle, for the international community to mobilize enormous military forces to monitor the implementation of the peace agreement.

This example that illustrates the readiness of two sides to conclude and realize a peace agreement, without the need for foreign military forces to be present to monitor and guarantee it, is the path that should be pursued, provided that all sides taking part in the peace process have the same good will and approach what they want to achieve with sincerity, that is, peace and the return to a normal life founded on mutual respect and recognition of everyone's legitimate rights to live in his part of the union of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Serbia

Socialists Say Milosevic To Head Election List

AU2210163593 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] The Socialist Party of Serbia [SPS] will run independently in the elections on 19 December this year, and it is almost certain the President Slobodan Milosevic will head their election list. This was said at the news conference by Milomir Minic, SPS general secretary; Zoran Arandjelovic, head of the elections headquarters; and SPS spokesman Ivica Dacic.

Dragoljub Stankic reports:

[Stankic] Every time that conflict situations arise, the Socialist Party of Serbia believes that the confidence of the nation should be tested at the elections. The lasting and principled view of the Socialists is that the Serbian people and the citizens of Serbia should decide on matters concerning the authorities in the republic. This was said by SPS Secretary General Milomir Minic:

[Minic] The priorities in our political campaign are peace in Serbia, the support and help provided to the just struggle of the Serbian people in the Krajinas, in the republic of Srpska and the republic of Serbian Krajina, so it ends successfully, the defense from the pressure on the people and our country that has been exerted from abroad, and then primarily the solution to the existential problems of the people, stimulation of work and production, and on that basis, the solution to the social existence. These are the aims with which we will run in these elections.

[Stankic] The future of our lives and the Republic of Serbia in the FRY [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia] are only democratic processes, which are very hard due to the social and economic problems, as well as the process of struggling to gain such a status for our country in Europe that will allow Serbia and Yugoslavia not to be ashamed, as it has never been, of its past. This was said by Zoran Arandjelovic, head of the SPS elections headquarters:

[Arandjelovic] I am an optimist that, despite all the lines and the social tensions, the people know and can discern what the current difficulties are and what the future of the democratic Serbia is.

[Stankic] Asked by the correspondents what the SPS has achieved so far and what it can offer to the citizens, Milomir Minic said that, after the disintegration of Yugoslavia, the war environment, the huge pressure from abroad, and the intention to spread the war to Serbia, the most precious thing was peace in Serbia.

Asked what he thought about the opposition and its chances at the elections, Minic said that the coalition between Vojislav Seselj and Vuk Draskovic had no chance.

Radical Party To Contest Elections

LD2310172493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1235 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Belgrade, 23 Oct (TANJUG)—The main committee of the Serbian Radical Party [SRS] today decided that the party would contest parliamentary elections on 19 December, but that it would not hold any public meetings.

These decisions were adopted unanimously, a statement signed by SRS chairman Vojislav Seselj stresses.

"We are open to agreements with other opposition parliamentary parties on the equal representation in state media and on supervising the counting of ballots," the statement says.

The statement says that the SRS main committee "is aware of the fact that the Socialist Party of Serbia uses all resources available to the regime to impose a media blockade and to politically make the the Serbian Radicals look evil, knowing that they are its most serious opponent."

To avoid the staging of any incident, the SRS will not hold any public meetings, and it warns its members not to fall for provocations, the statement says.

Milosevic, Stoltenberg Discuss Peace Process

LD2310153293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1256 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Belgrade, 23 Oct (TANJUG)—Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic today received Thorvald Stoltenberg, cochairman of the Geneva conference on the former Yugoslavia, and discussed with him the issues of great importance for the further course of the peace process and for a successful completion of the peace negotiations.

The office of the Serbian president has announced that, during the talks the two particularly stressed the importance of involving the most influential international factors in encouraging all sides in the conflict in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to start solving the remaining open issues as soon as possible. The joint view is that these issues should not postpone the final establishing of peace or the process of lifting the sanctions against Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as envisaged by the offered peace plan, a statement says.

Macedonia

Macedonian Albanians Support New Peace Conference

LD2210155893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1207 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Skopje, 22 Oct (TANJUG)—The People's Democratic Party of Albanians in Macedonia [Narodna Demokratska Partija], which has its deputies in the Macedonian assembly and represents views of a sizeable part of the Albanian population in the republic, supports the convening of a new peace conference on Yugoslavia, which would—applying the same principle—offer a global solution for the questions of all Balkan nations.

At a news conference in Skopje, representatives of the party said that the main motive for holding such a conference is the fact that "the questions of Albanians living in Macedonia and the Serbs living in Croatia have not been resolved." [passage omitted]

Economic Situation May Cause 'Social Clashes'

AU2210182493 Skopje MILS-NEWS in English 22 Oct 93

[Unattributed report: "Possible Social Clashes"]

[Text] One-third of the working people in Macedonia cannot satisfy their everyday needs. In the course of this year, 170,000 people have not found employment, and another 20,000 people have lost their jobs. About 40,000

workers (nine percent of the employees) have not received their August wages, while the number of those sent on an early holiday is enormous. Apart from that, 60 percent of the factories in Macedonia are temporarily shut down. The September inflation is expected to reach 10 percent. The private sector is not able to provide jobs for all those who need it. In circumstances like these, it is only natural to expect social clashes.

Montenegro

Sanctions Cause Loss of \$1.5 Billion

LD2210221093 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2147 GMT 22 Oct 93

[“Pool” item]

[Text] Bar, Yugoslavia, Oct 22 (TANJUG)—Montenegrin Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic said on Friday [22 October] that the economy of that Yugoslav Republic had lost more than 1.5 billion U.S. dollars through U.N. sanctions imposed on Yugoslavia (Serbia/Montenegro) 17 months ago.

The effects of the sanctions have been the worst in maritime trade, with Montenegrin shippers earning no hard currency for the past 17 months. Djukanovic said in a talk with the management of The Prekookeanska Plovidba shipping company, the biggest shipper in the Adriatic port of Bar before the sanctions.

The U.N. Security Council clamped comprehensive and mandatory sanctions on Yugoslavia in May of 1992, and tightened them twice since, for the country's alleged involvement in the war raging in neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina among the local Moslems, Serbs and Croats.

Prekookeanska Plovidba Director Luka Djakonovic said that more than one-half of the company's fleet of 17 ships was being held up in foreign ports through the sanctions.

Djukanovic called for salvaging the Montenegrin merchant fleet and said competent international factors would be approached and their help solicited in this respect.

Montenegrin Minister of Transport, Navigation and Communications Jusuf Kalamperovic repeated the need for salvaging the fleet and said that the Montenegrin shippers—Prekookeanska Plovidba of Bar and Jugooceanija of Kotor—had lost in excess of 200 million dollars through the sanctions.

Kosovo

Rugova: Albanians To Boycott December Elections

AU2310201093 Pristina KOSOVA DAILY REPORT Nr. 213 in English 22 Oct 93

[Unattributed report: "From the Press Conference of President Rugova in Prishtina"]

[Text] Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, president of the republic of Kosova, in a press conference held today in Prishtina, said once again that the repression against the Albanian schools has intensified recently. The Serbian police has been engaged in hindering classes in private homes in Mitrovica's secondary schools, and also in elementary schools of Klina. Repression was evident also against the political LDK activists, and institutions of Kosova throughout the entire Republic, Dr. Rugova said, denouncing such acts.

The blocking of the St. Paul and St. Peter Catholic churches in Gjakova, and the arrest of the priests, was commented by President Rugova to be a sign of growing repression against a part of the population of Gjakova.

The wave of repression which intensified over the last three months, Dr. Rugova said, is verified by the evidence and facts gathered by the Council for the Defense of Human Rights and Freedoms (CDHRF) in Prishtina, and that during August and September over 1,000 people have been maltreated and subjected to various forms of abuse and humiliation, adding that a number of political activists and MP's to the Kosova Parliament are still being held in prison.

Commenting on the visit of the Democratic Alliance Party of Albania to Belgrade and meetings with the Serbian ruling party officials, President Rugova said that no party has the right to speak on behalf of Kosova, as only its legitimate representatives elected by the people of Kosova are entitled to that right. And, also no one can

accuse the political parties of Kosova for refusing dialogue with the Serbian side. "We have many times tried to set up a dialogue, but it has not been successful, even within the Geneva Conference framework."

Continuing, Dr. Rugova hailed the appeal by the Helsinki International Federation from Vienna sent to the UN Security Council and General Assembly concerning the recent arrests in Kosova and the use of torture against the arrested persons.

President Rugova commented also on recent diplomatic developments in the international fora, and the question of Kosova, being often quoted within the European and world diplomatic circles, assessing: "The problem of Kosova is being considered as a serious problem and that steps have to be taken for its urgent solution. We reiterate that Kosova cannot be compared with the Serb Krajina, as some circles are attempting to do, on talks for a resumption of a regional conference on global solution of the problems in former Yugoslavia."

"We request that Kosova be treated as a particular program within a global solution of the crisis in former Yugoslavia, respecting the new political reality established in Kosova, and also considering that Kosova was a constituting unit of the former Yugoslav federation. We hope that Kosova will be looked upon as a serious and very important problem to be solved," he said.

In reply to a question by a Swedish journalist, President Rugova said he never requested from the Swedish government to grant any status of asylum, but temporary shelter for the Kosova Albanian refugees there. "We asked from various countries not to expel Kosova Albanian youth from those countries because most of them have escaped from the former Yugoslav Army. We cannot presently guarantee for their safety if they are sent back," he said.

In reply to another question, President Rugova commented on the dissolution of the Parliament of Serbia, stating that this would be reflected in Kosova too, adding: "We will not participate in any future elections in Serbia. We have already had our elections," he said.